



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Fifth Sunday of Easter | May 7, 2023

**MUSIC IN TODAY'S SERVICE LICENSED
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- ❖ PRELUDE: Rhosymedre – R. Vaughan Williams
- ❖ OPENING HYMN: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- ❖ ANTHEM: I Have Felt the Hand of God by Pamela Martin arr by Craig Courtney
- ❖ OFFERTORY: Canticle of the Sun – Marty Haugen
- ❖ COMMUNION HYMN: As We Gather*
- ❖ CLOSING HYMN: God, We Thank You for Our People*
- ❖ POSTLUDE: Hyfrydol – R. Vaughan Williams

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Today's service will be recorded.



PILGRIM
Congregational Church



**Welcome to Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation**

Statement of Welcome

We honor the Biblical call to love one another as God first loved us. We welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people of any race, nationality, religious background, educational background, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, economic status, and physical, mental, and emotional abilities.

Mission Statement

*A welcoming home to all
spiritual seekers
Making a difference in our world,
By fusing our Christian faith with
everyday life and Serving God by serving others.*

Children at Pilgrim

Children are an important part of our worshipping community. We try to make them feel at home!

All are welcome. Professional childcare for infants and toddlers is available in the nursery from 10:15 to the end of the service.

Please note: The video of this service is posted online. If you prefer not to be filmed, please sit near the rear of the sanctuary.

Visual and Hearing Aids

Hearing devices may be picked up from the table in the narthex.

Large Print bulletins and Sermons texts are available.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
Fifth Sunday of Easter | May 7 2023

PRELUDE

Rhosymedre—R. Vaughan Williams

GREETING

One: Christ is Risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: God is Good!

All: All the time!

One: All the time!

All: God is Good! Hallelujah!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*OPENING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling—Red Hymnal 228

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1815-1882




1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot-less let us be;



Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 Let us all in thee in - her - it, Let us find thy prom - ised rest;
 Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 Till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise. A - men.

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest;
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
Never-more they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation.
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.
Amen

OPENING PRAYER

One: Let us join in prayer together:

All: O God of the morning and the evening hours, let your Spirit come on us gathered now. Your people call on you in faith, joining hearts and voices in thanksgiving and praise to your name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM I Have Felt the Hand of God by Pamela Martin arr by Craig Courtney

REFLECTIONS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

OFFERTORY

Canticle of the Sun—Marty Haugen

*DOXOLOGY

Red Hymnal 515

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

or

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

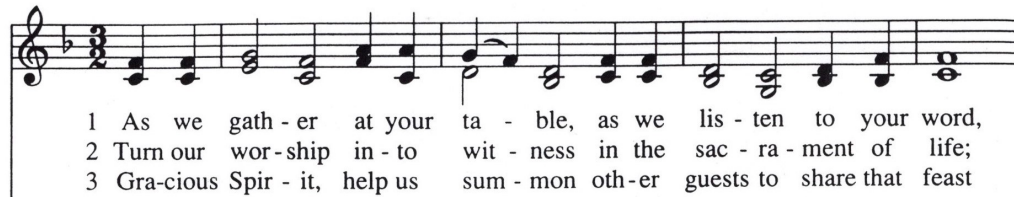
*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Rev. Reebee Girash

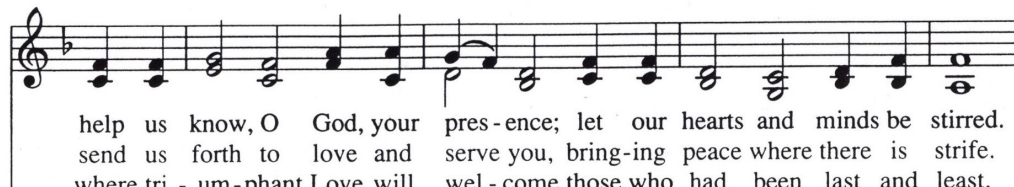
THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*COMMUNION HYMN


As We Gather at Your Table—Black Hymnal 332



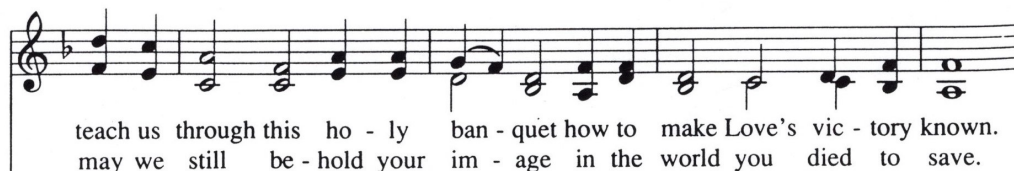
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

1 As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
Help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
How to make Love's victory known.

2 Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy bind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

*Our service of communion is open to all who wish to participate.
The sacrament is a gift from God, and all are welcome to receive it.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

LORDS PRAYER

Our Father (Creator), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

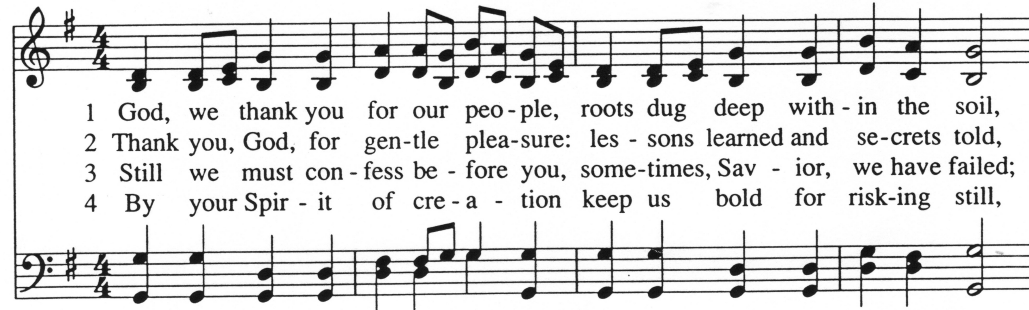
*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life.

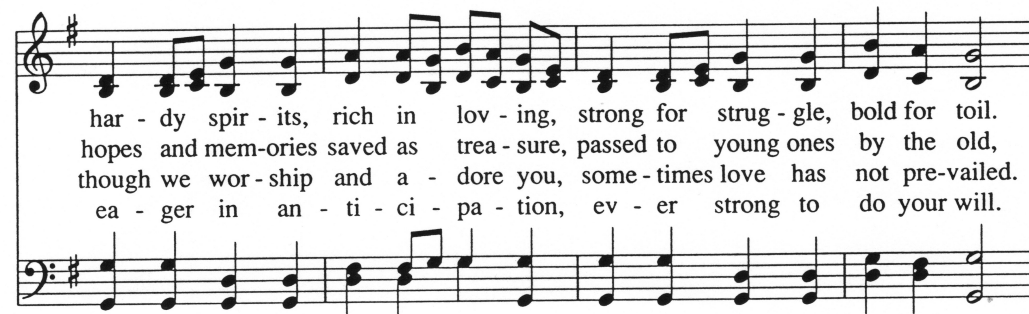
Fed by your love, and strengthened by your life; we humbly accept your call to go into this world to live with hope, and to share your joy. You commission us to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, and love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN *Ruth Duck, 1986*

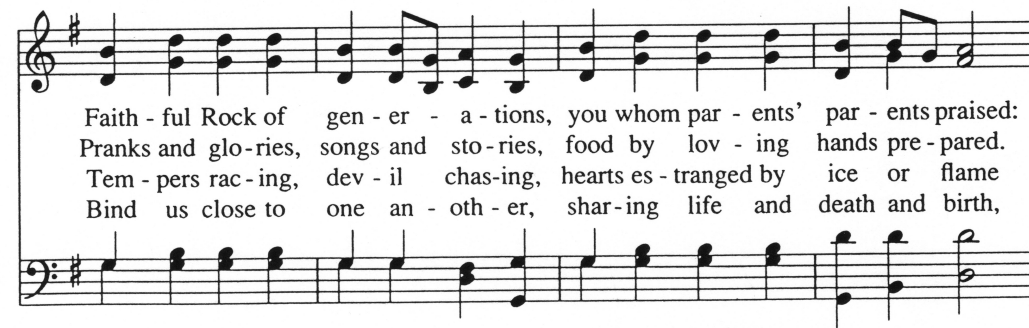
God, We Thank You for Our People—Black Hymnal 376



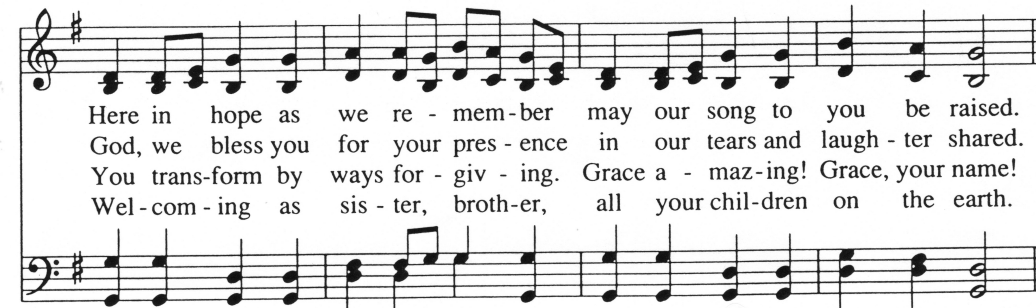
1 God, we thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug deep with - in the soil,
2 Thank you, God, for gen-tle plea-sure: les - sons learned and se-crets told,
3 Still we must con-fess be - fore you, some-times, Sav - ior, we have failed;
4 By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us bold for risk-ing still,



har - dy spir - its, rich in lov - ing, strong for strug - gle, bold for toil.
hopes and mem-ories saved as trea - sure, passed to young ones by the old,
though we wor - ship and a - dore you, some-times love has not pre-ailed.
ea - ger in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er strong to do your will.



Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:
Pranks and glo-ries, songs and sto-ries, food by lov - ing hands pre-pared.
Tem - pers rac - ing, dev - il chas-ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or flame
Bind us close to one an - oth - er, shar-ing life and death and birth,



Here in hope as we re - mem - ber may our song to you be raised.
God, we bless you for your pres - ence in our tears and laugh - ter shared.
You trans-form by ways for - giv - ing. Grace a - maz-ing! Grace, your name!
Wel-com - ing as sis - ter, broth-er, all your chil-dren on the earth.

1 God, we thank you for our people, roots dug deep within the soil,
hardy spirits, rich in loving, strong for struggle, bold for toil.
Faithful rock of generations, you whom parents; parents praised:
Here in hope as we remember may our song to you be raised.

2 Thank you, God, for gentle pleasure: lessons learned and secrets told,
Hopes and memories saved as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.
God, we bless you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.

3 Still we must confess before you, sometimes, Savior, we have failed;
though we worship and adore you, sometimes love has not prevailed.
Tempers racing, devil chasing, hearts estranged by ice or flame
You transform by ways forgiving. Grace amazing! Grace, your name!

4 By your Spirit of creation keep us bold for risking still,
eager in anticipation, ever strong to do your will.
Bind us close to one another, sharing life and death and birth,
Welcoming as sister, brother, all your children on the earth.

*BENEDICTION


Rev. Reebee Girash

POSTLUDE

Hyfrydol – R. Vaughn Williams

**Please be in a posture of praise*

A special Thank You to our Zoom host, Doug Johnston.



Call to Congregational Meeting Today

To all Pilgrim Church Members and Friends.

Pursuant to our Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, you are invited to a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 7th, 2023, at 11:45 am or earlier, immediately following the Worship Service.

Agenda:

- Presentation of a proposed solar installation plan
- Open forum for questions and answers
- Congregational vote on proposed plan

Everyone is invited to attend; only members may vote.
Child care will be provided.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Boehm, Clerk