



**Pilgrim Congregational Church**  
**United Church of Christ**

**Welcome Sunday | September 10, 2023**

MUSIC IN TODAY'S SERVICE LICENSED FOR  
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- ❖ PRELUDE: Fugue—Beethoven arr.Scott M Hyslop
- ❖ OPENING HYMN: Morning Has Broken
- ❖ HYMN: Pray for the Wilderness\*
- ❖ OFFERTORY: Touch the Earth Lightly—  
Shirley Erena Murray and Tony E. Alonso
- ❖ PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Let Us Talents  
and Tongues Employ\*
- ❖ CLOSING HYMN: Joyful Joyful We Adore  
You\*
- ❖ POSTLUDE: Halle Halle Hallelujah—  
arr.John Behnke

*\*The New Century Hymnal, Copyright 1995.*

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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**  
**Welcome Sunday | September 10, 2023**

PRELUDE

Fugue – Beethoven arr.Scott M Hyslop

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Isabella Stevens

ONE: Peace be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Isabella Stevens

Genesis 2, Selected Verses, adapted

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed a human being - an earth creature - from the dust of the ground, and breathed into the human's nostrils the breath of life; and he became a living being.

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there God put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God put the earth creature in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it. Out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the human being to see what he would call them; and whatever he called every living creature, that was its name.

The earth creature gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field....

GATHERING BEAUTY

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

\*OPENING HYMN

Morning Has Broken – Red Hymnal 38

ANTHEM

Ukuthula – a South African Hymn for Peace

***Children are invited to Sunday School at this time.***

***Please gather at the rear of the Sanctuary with Sarah Jane Fuller and Izzy Leginsky.***



# Morning Has Broken

38

Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-

BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4.D.

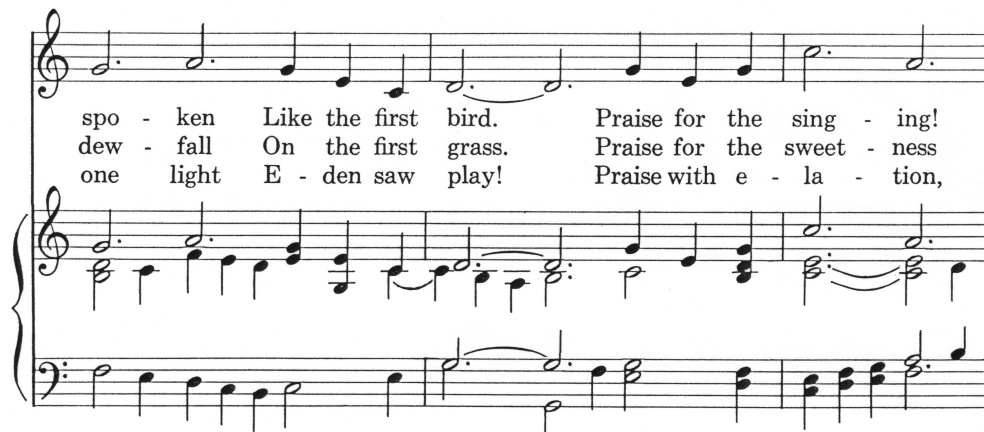
Gaelic Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948

*In unison*



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the



spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing!  
 dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness  
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion,



Praise for the morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!  
 Of the wet gar - den, Sprung in com-plete - ness Where his feet pass.  
 Praise ev - ery morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

1 Morning has broken Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing Fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall Sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dewfall On the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness Of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness Where his feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,  
God's recreation Of the new day!

## PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Isabella Stevens

**God of the Garden, we celebrate all living things today: from forest to field, from sea to sky. Help us to see your presence, not only in human history but also in the stories of our kin throughout creation. Teach us to hear the good news of your loving care ringing through creation. In the name of Christ who fills heaven and Earth, we pray. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Isabella Stevens

### Psalms 104, Selected Verses

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty,

2 wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

3 you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind,

4 you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.

5 You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.

10 You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills,

11 giving drink to every wild animal; the wild animals quench their thirst.

12 By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.

13 From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.

14 You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use, to bring forth food from the earth,

15 and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine, and bread to strengthen the human heart.

16 The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon that God planted.

17 In them the birds build their nests; the stork has its home in the fir trees.

18 The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the coney.  
24 O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

One: Here ends the reading. Hear what the Spirit of God is saying to the church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

Rev. Reebee Girash

\*HYMN

Pray for the Wilderness—Black Hymnal 557 Verses 1, 2, 5

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Touch the Earth Lightly—Shirley Erena Murray and Tony E. Alonso

## Pray for the Wilderness

1 Pray for the wil - der - ness, van - ish - ing fast,  
 2 Learn from the el - e - phant, ea - gle, and whale,  
 3 Work for the jus - tice cre - at - ed things need,  
 4 Trust that God's Christ o - ver - came nails and wood,  
 5 Pray for the at - mos - phere, pray for the sea,

pray for the rain for - est, o - pen and vast;  
 learn from the drag - on - fly, spi - der, and snail;  
 work for the health of each plant and its seed;  
 trust that earth's peo - ple will turn to the good;  
 learn from the riv - er, the rock, and the tree;

Pray for the wa - ter - falls, pray for the trees,  
 Learn from the peo - ple in neigh - bor - ing lands,  
 Work for the crea - tures a - bus - has be - trayed,  
 Trust that cre - a - tion for ev - er will grow,  
 Work till sha - lom in full har - mo - ny rings.

pray for the plan - et brought down by de - grees.  
 learn from the chil - dren who play in their sands.  
 work for the gar - den God's wis - dom once made.  
 trust that God's good - ness to us o - ver - flows.  
 Trust the con - nec - tion of all liv - ing things.

1Pray for the wilderness, vanishing fast,  
pray for the rain forest, open and vast;  
Pray for the waterfalls, pray for the trees,  
pray for the planet brought down by degrees.

2Learn from the elephant, eagle, and whale,  
learn from the dragonfly, spider, and snail;  
Learn from the people in neighboring lands,  
learn from the children who play in their sands.

5Pray for the atmosphere, pray for the sea,  
learn from the river, the rock, and the tree;  
Work till shalom in full harmony rings.  
Trust the connection of all living things.

*Hymnwriter Dan Damon tried for several months to write a hymn for the earth. A movie about the vanishing rain forest finally provided the inspiration he needed, along with his seven-year-old daughter, Heather, who suggested including "waterfalls."*

Tune: WILDERNESS 10.10.10.10.  
*Lee Yu San, 1967*

**\*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**

**Generous God, we offer these gifts in gratitude for all the blessings of our  
lives and in support of the ministries of your church. May our gifts of time,  
talent and treasure bring blessings to those in need. Amen.**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ—Black Hymnal 347



# Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Tune: LINSTED L.M. with refrain  
 Jamaican folk song  
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,  
 reaching out with a shout of joy.  
 bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
 Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;  
 pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
 Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;  
 pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one.  
 at his table he set the tone,  
 teaching people to live to bless,  
 love in word and in deed express.

[Refrain]

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
 bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
 God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
 [Refrain]

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*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

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God,**

**Forgive us when we sin against our siblings, against your creation, against you. Grant us the grace and humility to change, for the sake of building up your kingdom of love and justice.**

### 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.**

### ASSURANCE OF GRACE

COMMUNION PRAYER

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We thank you O God, for refreshing us at your holy table. We thank you for our kin in this community and around the world. May we always be reminded to see the world through Christ's eyes, and to work for a time when all may share together at Your table. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

Joyful Joyful, We Adore You—Black Hymnal 4

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Halle Halle Hallelujah—arr. John Behnke

*Please join us in Pilgrim Hall for social time after the service.*

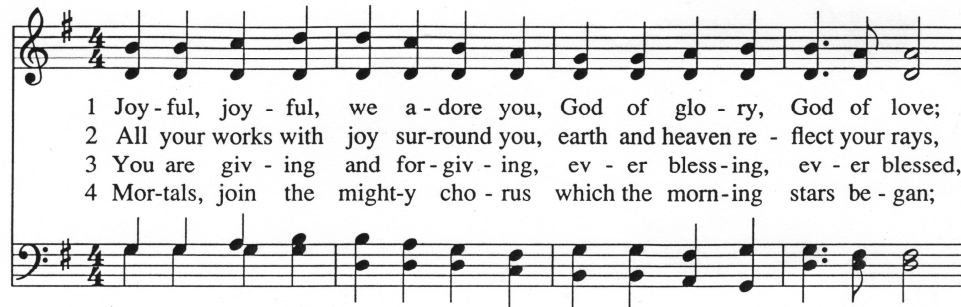
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*\*Please be in a posture of praise.*

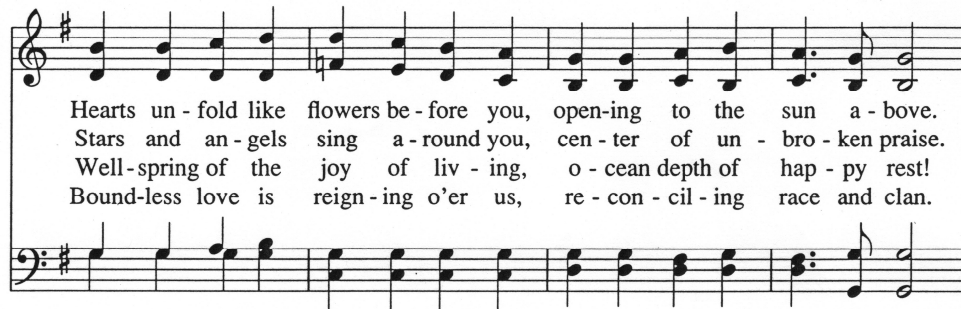
## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

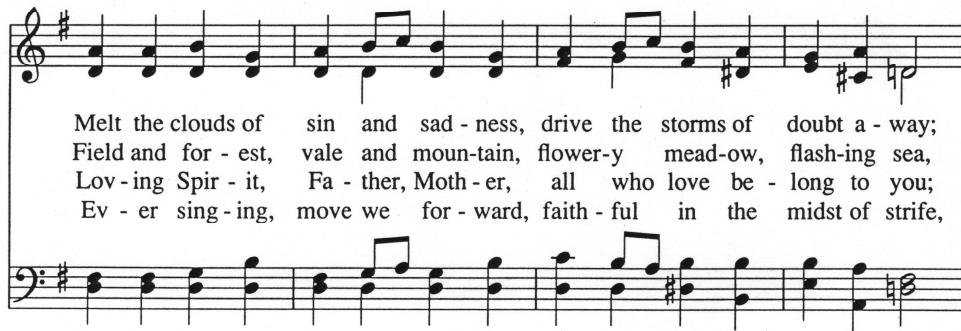
Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.



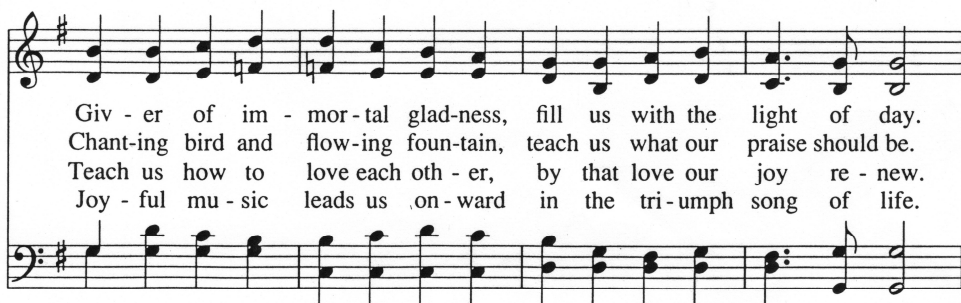
1 Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore you, God of glo-ry, God of love;  
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re-flect your rays,  
 3 You are giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blessed,  
 4 Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;



Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore you, open-ing to the sun a-bove.  
 Stars and an-gels sing a-round you, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.  
 Well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!  
 Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re-con-cil-ing race and clan.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the storms of doubt a-way;  
 Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
 Lov-ing Spir-it, Fa-ther, Moth-er, all who love be-long to you;  
 Ev-er sing-ing, move we for-ward, faith-ful in the midst of strife,



Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise should be.  
 Teach us how to love each oth-er, by that love our joy re-new.  
 Joy-ful mu-sic leads us on-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759-1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824  
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

2 All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.

3 You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;  
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;  
Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan.  
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

A special Thank you to our Liturgist, Isabella Stevens, our Zoom Hosts, Sydney Stevens and Madeleine Clark, and our Social Hosts, Mary Mackie, Marjorie Kelland, and Derek Gardiner.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 12** - Bible Study, 10:30am (Zoom)

**September 12** - Interfaith Working Group on Antisemitism, 7:00pm

**September 14** - Men's Coffee, 10:00am

**September 14** - Choir Practice, 7:30pm

**September 17** - Blessing of the Animals Worship Service, 10:30am (outdoors)

**September 24** - Rev. Fred Small, guest preacher and singer, 10:30am

**October 1** - World Communion Sunday, 10:30am, and Potluck after worship

**October 7** - Pumpkins arrive, 9:00am

