



**Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
October 15, 2023**

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- ❖ PRELUDE: Andante in D Major (Johnn Ludwig Krebs) + Praeludium in A Major (J.G. Walther)
- ❖ OPENING HYMN: God of the Bible (Shirley Erena Murray)
- ❖ ANTHEM: If you but Trust in God arr by Sharon Wilson
- ❖ HYMN: How Firm a Foundation*
- ❖ OFFERTORY: Morning Has Broken arr Stan Pethel
- ❖ CLOSING HYMN: Blessed Be the Tie That Binds *
- ❖ POSTLUDE: Prelude & Fugue in G— JS Bach

Today's service will be recorded.

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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 | Worship Sunday, October 15, 2023

PRELUDE

Andante in D Major (Johnn Ludwig Krebs)
+ Praeludium in A Major (J.G. Walther)

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING THE PEACE

ONE: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(From Psalm 98)

One: O sing to the Lord a new song,

All: for God has done marvelous things.

One: The Lord's love is steadfast

All: The Lord is faithful

One: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

All: the world and those who live in it.

One: let the hills sing together for joy

All: And let us sing together for joy!

*OPENING HYMN

God of the Bible Fresh as the Morning

15

Piano introduction in D major, 6/8 time. The melody is played in the right hand with eighth notes, and the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Verses

Vocal and piano parts for the verses. The vocal line is in D major, 6/8 time. The piano accompaniment is in D major, 6/8 time. The lyrics are: 1 God of the Bi - ble, God in the Gos - pel, 2 God in our strug - gles, God in our hun - ger, 3 Those with - out sta - tus, those who are noth - ing, 4 Not by your fin - ger, not by your an - ger, 5 Hope we must car - ry, shin - ing and cer - tain.

Vocal and piano parts for the chorus. The vocal line is in D major, 6/8 time. The piano accompaniment is in D major, 6/8 time. The lyrics are: hope seen in Je - sus, hope yet to come, suf - fer - ing with us, tak - ing our part, you have made roy - al, gift - ed with rights, will our world or - der change in a day, through all our tur - moil, ter - ror and loss.

God of the Bible (Murray)

Vocal and piano parts for the first part of 'God of the Bible (Murray)'. The vocal line is in D major, 6/8 time. The piano accompaniment is in D major, 6/8 time. The lyrics are: you are our cen - ter, day - light or dark - ness, still you em - power us, moth - er - ing Spir - it, cho - sen as part - ners, mid - wives of jus - tice, but by your peo - ple, fear - less and faith - ful, bond - ing us glad - ly, one to the oth - er,

Vocal and piano parts for the second part of 'God of the Bible (Murray)'. The vocal line is in D major, 6/8 time. The piano accompaniment is in D major, 6/8 time. The lyrics are: free - dom or pris - on, you are our home, feed - ing, sus - tain - ing, from your own heart, birth - ing new sys - tems, light - ing new lights, small pa - per lan - terns, light - ing the way, till our world chang - es, fac - ing the Cross.

Refrain

Vocal and piano parts for the refrain of 'God of the Bible (Murray)'. The vocal line is in D major, 6/8 time. The piano accompaniment is in D major, 6/8 time. The lyrics are: Fresh as the morn - ing, sure as the sun - rise.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray
MUSIC: Tony Alonso

FRESH AS THE MORNING

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Em D/F# Em A

God al - ways faith - ful, you do not change.

D A/D G/D D

Fresh as the morn - ing, sure as the sun - rise,

Em D/F# G/A D A/D

God al - ways faith - ful, you do not change.

G/D D A/D G/D

Final ending

last time rit.

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our center, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.

Refrain: Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empower us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart. [Refrain]

Those without status, those who are nothing,
you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
birthing new systems, lighting new lights. [Refrain]

Not by your finger, not by your anger
will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way. [Refrain]

Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other.
till our world changes, facing the Cross. [Refrain]

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, God, creator of all, you are our parent and guide, our sustainer and provider. We thank you for bringing us into another day to worship you together. We thank you for our community, and for the community that made us who we are. We thank you for whose we are: our parents, children, friends, family members, work, school, and other relationships. Hear the names of those to whom we belong. *(We speak names aloud.) Be in our worship, in our relationships with each other, and in the ways that we serve you in the world. In your name we pray. Amen.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Ruth 1:1-18

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ² The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³ But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

⁶ Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had had consideration for his

people and given them food. ⁷ So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹ The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰ They said to her, 'No, we will return with you to your people.' ¹¹ But Naomi said, 'Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³ would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.' ¹⁴ Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' ¹⁶ But Ruth said, 'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die—

there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,

if even death parts me from you!

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

If you but Trust in God
(Dot, Dan, Em) - Arranged by Sharon Wilson

***Children and Youth are invited to participate in a service project at this time.
Please gather at the rear of the Sanctuary with Sarah Jane Fuller.***

SERMON

Rev. Reebee Girash

*HYMN

FAITH

407

How Firm a Foundation—Black Hymnal 407

How Firm a Foundation

Isa. 43:2-5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5

"K" in John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787; alt.

1 How firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

In 1787, John Rippon, English Baptist clergyman, identified the author of this hymn as "K"; no one has yet verified a complete name. The pentatonic melody has been known by several names since it first appeared in Funk's Genuine Church Music (1832).

Tune: FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11.
 Early United States melody
 from Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832
 Alternate tune: ADESTE FIDELES

1 How firm a foundation for you has been laid,
by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said,
to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed
for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand
upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."

3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of woe shall not over you flow;
For I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
delivering you from your deepest distress."

4 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace all sufficient shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you' for I have designed
your soul to make pure just as gold is refined."

5 "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Morning Has Broken—Dot, John, Zac arr. Stan Pethel

*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

*CLOSING HYMN

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds—Black Hymnal 393

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

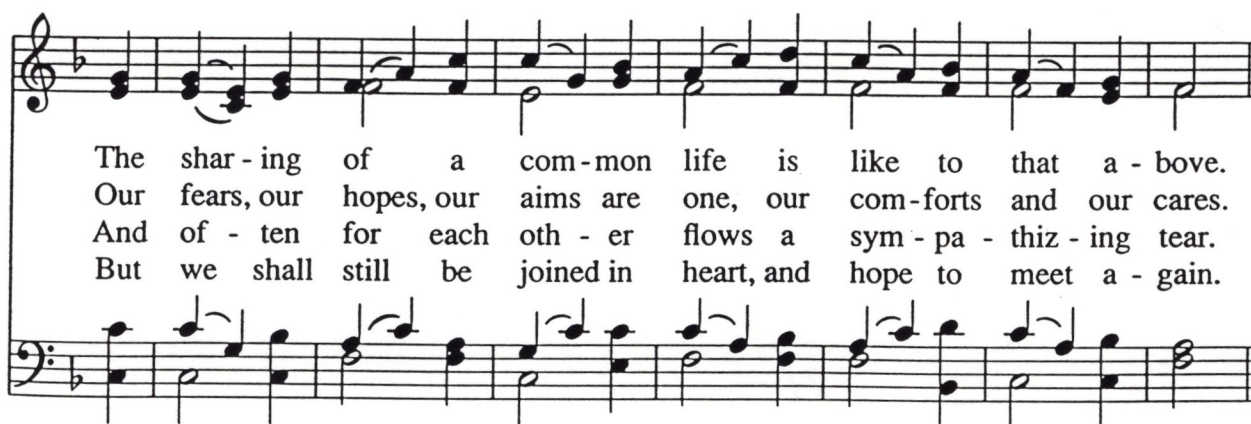
393

John Fawcett, 1782; alt.

Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13–15



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

2 Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

3 We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

4 When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude & Fugue in G—JS Bach

**Please be in a posture of praise.*

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

GIVING

For your convenience, we accept credit card or PayPal donations. Please use the QR code on the right using your mobile device's camera to visit the PayPal website and thank you for your generosity.



SOURCE NOTES

The Prayer of Illumination is from Spirit & Truth Publishing. Church drawing by Deven A.

