



**Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
October 8, 2023**

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- ❖ PRELUDE: Morning Prelude—
Robert J Powell
- ❖ OPENING HYMN: God of
Abraham and Sarah*
- ❖ ANTHEM: Upon This Rock
arr. Jay Althouse
- ❖ HYMN: Love Divine, All Loves
Excelling*
- ❖ OFFERTORY: This is Our Path—
Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan
- ❖ CLOSING HYMN: In the Midst of
New Dimensions*
- ❖ POSTLUDE: A Trumpet Fancy—
L. Nelson

Today's service will be recorded.

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

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PILGRIM
Congregational Church



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Welcome to Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC 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 8, 2023

PRELUDE

Morning Prelude—Robert J Powell

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

One: Let us worship our God whose name is Love.

All: Let us praise our God whose nature is Mercy.

One: Blessed are we whose wrongdoings have been forgiven,

All: Blessed are we in whom Love Divine finds a home, and Whose spirit radiates truth.

One: Let Us praise God together!

*OPENING HYMN

GOD
20

God of Abraham and Sarah—Black Hymnal 20

James Gertmenian, 1986; alt.



1 God of A - bra - ham and Sar-ah, God of Mo - ses, Mir - iam's Guide;
2 God who danc - es in cre - a - tion, spin - ning stars a - bove our heads;
3 God who loves the poor in spir - it, God who com-forts those who mourn;
4 In our lives from birth to dy-ing, depth of sor - row, height of joy;



God of Da - vid and the proph-ets, God in Je - sus glo - ri - fied:
God whose face is scribed in mu - sic, by whose hand the earth is fed:
Balm for wounds, the friend of sin - ners, tak-ing the side of earth's for - lorn:
Prais-ing God in ev - ery sea - son, let ev - ery key our hearts em - ploy.



Up from the dust you raise a peo - ple, breathe in the breath of life, of soul;
Up from the ground you raise the moun-tains, raise our spir - its, lift our eyes;
Up from the depths you raise your peo - ple, giv - ing them cour-age for the day;
Praise is the heal - ing, praise, the glo - ry, praise is the fin - al mys-ter - y;



Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le-lu-ias make them whole!
Down through the years your peo - ple praise you till al - le-lu-ias flood the skies!
Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le-lu-ias light their way!
Down through the years let peo - ple praise you till al - le-lu-ias set them free!



The healing power of praise and the history of God's dealings with humankind are the themes of this hymn, written by a United Church of Christ minister who is the grandson of Armenian immigrants. The tune is named for his father.

Tune: CONSTANTINE 8.7.8.7.D.
Melody by James Gertmenian, 1986
Harm. Ronald Huntington, 1986; alt.

1 God of Abraham and Sarah,
God of Moses, Miriam's guide;
God of David and the prophets,
God in Jesus, glorified:
Up from the dust, you raise people,
read in the breath of life, of soul;
Down through the years the people
praise you till alleluias make them whole!

2 God, who dances in creation,
spinning stars above our heads;
God, whose face is scribed in music,
by whose hand the Earth is fed:
Up from the ground, you raise the
mountains,
raise our spirits, lift our eyes;
Down through the years your people
praise you till alleluias flood the skies!

3 God who loves the poor in spirit,
God, who comforts those who mourn;
Balm for wounds, the friend of sinners,
taking the side of earths, forlorn:
Up from the depths, you raise your people,
giving them courage for the day;
Down through years the people
praise you till alleluias light their way!

4 In our lives from birth to dying,
depth of sorrow, height of joy;
Praising God in every season,
let every key our hearts employ.

Praise is the healing, praise, the glory,
praise is the final mystery;
Down through the years let people
praise you till alleluias set them free!

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, Good Creator, we come to you in faith this day. Through Moses, you delivered the Ten Commandments to your people. Write your law on our hearts, so that we may go into the world to serve our neighbors and one another. We pray this in your holy name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9

Moses convened all Israel, and said to them:

Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances that I am addressing to you today; you shall learn them and observe them diligently. ² The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb. ³ Not with our ancestors did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today. ⁴ The LORD spoke with you face to face at the mountain, out of the fire. ⁵ (At that time I was standing between the LORD and you to declare to you the words of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.) And he said:

⁶ I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ⁷ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁸ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁹ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and fourth

generation of those who reject me, ¹⁰ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

¹¹ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

¹² Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you.

¹³ For six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁴ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. ¹⁵ Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

¹⁶ Honour your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, so that your days may be long and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹⁷ You shall not murder.

¹⁸ Neither shall you commit adultery.

¹⁹ Neither shall you steal.

²⁰ Neither shall you bear false witness against your neighbour.

²¹ Neither shall you covet your neighbour's wife.

Neither shall you desire your neighbour's house, or field, or male or female slave, or

ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. ⁶ Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷ Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹ and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Upon This Rock arr. Jay Althouse

Children and Youth are invited to Sunday School at this time. Please gather at the rear of the Sanctuary with Sarah Jane Fuller and Izzy Leginsky.

SERMON

Rev. Reebee Girash

*HYMN

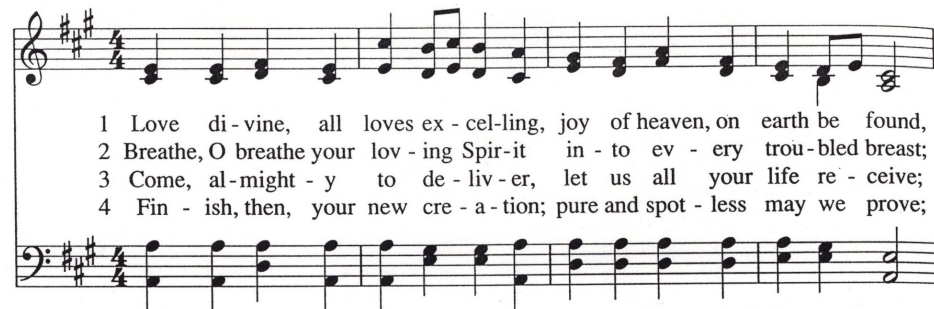
43

Love Divine—Black Hymnal 43

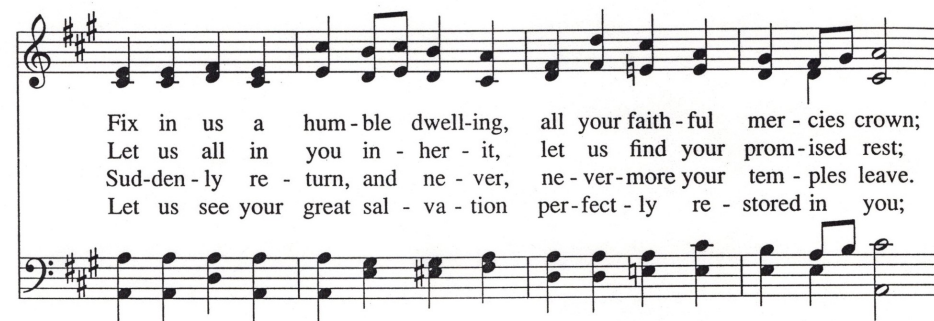
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

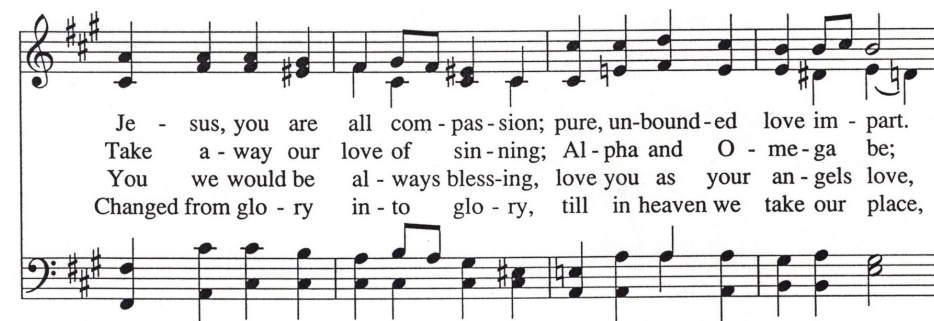
Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



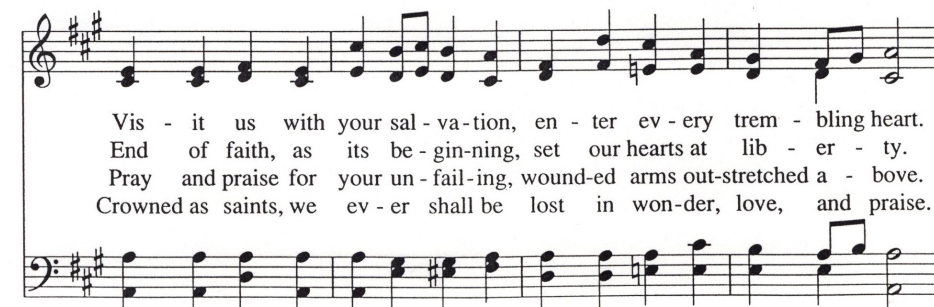
1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your 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 for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

This is Our Path—Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

*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

**O God, from your providing hand we
receive what we need for our lives.
Teach us your ways of justice
and lead us to practice your generosity,
so that we may live a life worthy of the gospel
make known through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions—Black Hymnal 391

Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12–16; Exod. 13:21–22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

Refrain
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea - gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain
 Julian Rush, 1985
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

1 In the midst of new dimensions,
in the face of changing ways,
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples
wandering in their separate ways?

[Refrain] God of rainbow, fiery pillar,
leading where the eagles soar,
We your people, ours the journey now and
ever, now and ever, now and ever more.

2 Through the flood of starving people,
warring factions and despair,
Who will lift the olive branches?
Who will light the flame of care? [Refrain]

3 As we stand a world divided
by our own self-seeking schemes,
Grant that we, your global village
might envision wider dreams. [Refrain]

4 We are man and we are woman,
all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation,
each a love song to be sung. [Refrain]

5 Should the threats of dire predictions
cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit,
resurrect the church again. [Refrain]



*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

A Trumpet Fancy—L. Nelson

**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 from your mobile device's camera to visit the PayPal website and thank you for your generosity.



FIRE DRILL

We will hold a fire drill following our morning service (weather permitting). Please listen closely during the morning's announcements as we will review the full evacuation procedure at this time. Upon the ringing of the alarm, all congregants in the sanctuary will exit through the back of the sanctuary and onto the front lawn. Please direct any questions or concerns to Sarah Jane at: sarah.fuller@pilgrimcongregational.org.

SOURCE NOTES

The Call to Worship is adapted from Nan Merrill's Psalm 32 from *Psalms for Praying*. The Opening prayer is from *Spirit & Truth*.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Revised Common Lectionary Prayers.

Cover artwork by Anne Cowan.

