



**Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
November 26, 2023**

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- PRELUDE: Savior Of the Nations, Come - Max Reger
- OPENING HYMN: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel adapted by Rev. Kate Layzer**
- HYMN: My Heart Sings*
- HYMN: Comfort, Comfort O My People*
- ANTHEM: The Holly and the Ivy
- OFFERTORY:
- CLOSING HYMN: Of the Father's Love Begotten
- POSTLUDE: It's Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus - Franklin Ritter

Today's service will be recorded.

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

***This version of O Come, O Come Emmanuel is adapted by Rev. Kate Layzer to avoid supersessionist language while retaining the our Christian hope for Christ's presence. Used with permission.*



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.

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.

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.*

Visual and Hearing Aids

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

Large Print bulletins and Sermons texts are available.

Worship Sunday, November 26, 2023

PRELUDE

Savior Of the Nations, Come - Max Reger

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING THE PEACE

Lesley Morrison

ONE: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lesley Morrison

ONE: God of the darkened night, God of the morning light,

ALL: Come to us again.

One: Come to us in the preparation of our homes and our hearts.

ALL: Come to us in the harmony of song and the sound of silence.

ONE: Come in our faithful waiting and hopeful watching.

ALL: Come to us in the cry for peace and the smile of forgiveness.

ALL: God of the darkened night, God of the morning light, come to us; be with us. Amen.

INTRODUCING OUR GREENING SERVICE

*OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel adapted by Rev. Kate Layzer*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and with thy captive people dwell;
who mourn in lonely exile here, Until the Child of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, in pe-e-ace to dwell.
O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, in pe-e-ace to dwell.
O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show, and causes us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, in pe-e-ace to dwell.
O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to us, in pe-e-ace to dwell.

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THE COLORS OF ADVENT

*Hymn

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise - Black Hymnal 106

A D A/E E7 A

1 My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me,
 2 The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud.
 3 The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,

A D A/E E7 A

Who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny.
 The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud.
 for God has come in power to save, to set all peo - ple free.

E A D E7 A E

The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace
 The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.
 Re - mem - bering those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day,

A D A/E E7 A

To those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and place.
 The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.
 Our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

The "Magnificat," a traditional text for evening prayer as well as Advent, is paraphrased here by Ruth Duck. She developed it to make the ancient rite of evening prayer available to her own worshipping communities.

Tune: MARIAS LOVSÅNG C.M.D.
 Swedish folk melody

Alternate tunes: ELLACOMBE, TALLIS' THIRD

1 My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me,
Who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny.
The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace
To those who seek their Maker's will in every time and place.

2 The arm of God is strong and just to scatter all the proud.
The tyrants tumble from their thrones and vanish like a cloud.
The hungry all are satisfied; the rich I sent away.
The poor of earth who suffer long will welcome God's new day.

3 The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,
for God has come in power to save, to set all people free.
Remembering those who wait to see salvation's dawning day,
Our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Susan Fagerstrom and Doug Johnston

ONE: We light this candle as people of hope,

ALL: Yearning for Christ's peace.

ONE: The peace which surpasses all understanding.

ALL: We yearn for peace, not as the world gives, but as Christ gives.

ONE: In the face of worry, frenzy and pain, we light this candle as people of hope,

ALL: And we remember Christ's invitation: Peace, be still.

ONE: Friends, let us have hope that Christ's peace can be ours.

*Hymn

Comfort, Comfort O My People - Black Hymnal 101


101

Comfort, Comfort O My People



Isa. 40:1-8

Johannes Olearius, 1671

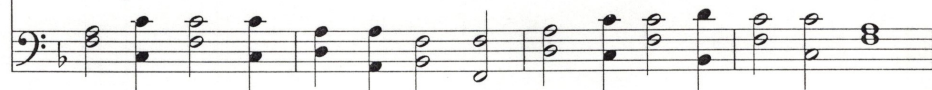

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.





1 "Com - fort, com-fort O my peo - ple, tell of peace," thus says our God;
 2 For the her-ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook-ed, and the rough - er pla - ces plain!

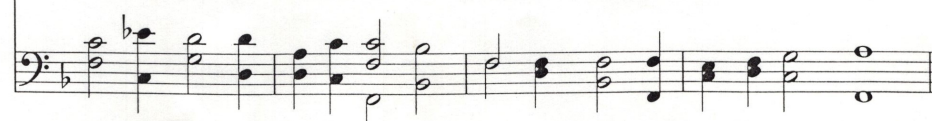
Com-fort those whose hearts are shroud-ed, mourn-ing un - der sor-row's load.
 Bid-ding us to make re - pen - tance since the realm of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, for Mes-si - ah's ho - ly reign.

Speak un - to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
 For God's glo - ry ev - er-more shall be known o'er all the world;

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.
 Let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.



1 "Comfort, comfort O my people; tell of peace," thus says our God.
Comfort those whose hearts are shrouded, mourning under sorrow's load.
Speak unto Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.

2 For the herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,
Bidding us to make repentance since the realm of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.

3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, for Messiah's holy reign.
For God's glory evermore shall be known o'er all the world;
And all flesh shall see the token that God's work is never broken.

SCRIPTURE READING

Lesley Morrison

Jeremiah 33:14-17

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

The Holly and the Ivy

THE BETHLEHEM STAR

Children are invited to attend Sunday School at this time. Please meet Sarah Jane Fuller and Izzy Leginski at the rear of the Sanctuary.

SCRIPTURE READING

Lesley Morrison

Isaiah 2:2-5

²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴God shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

REFLECTION

Rev. Reebee Girash

THE CANDLES IN THE WINDOWS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

LORD'S 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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*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

**God of hope and wonder,
even surrounded by confusion and trouble
we look for you.**

**Take these gifts and use
them for acts of justice, peace, mercy, and hope.**

**Receive also the gifts of our time and our actions that are just as precious
to you as silver and gold. Amen.**

THE WREATHS OF ADVENT

*CLOSING HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten - Red Hymnal 111

III Of the Father's Love Begotten

Latin: Prudentius, 348-c.410
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, St. 1, alt.
Tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, Sls. 2,3

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
13th century Plainsong, Mode V

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2 O ye heights of heaven a - dore him; An - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
3 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,

He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the end - ing he;
Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, And ex - tol our God and King;
Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing, And un - wea - ried prais - es be:

Of the things that are, that have been, And that
Let no tongue on earth be si - lent, Ev - ery
Hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, And e -

fu - ture years shall see, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
voice in con - cert ring, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
ter - nal vic - to - ry, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

1 Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he;
Of the things that are, that have been, And that
future years shall see, Evermore and evermore!

2 O ye heights of heaven adore him;
Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before him,
And extol our God and King; Let no tongue on
earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

5 Christ, to thee with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory, Evermore and evermore!

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

It's Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus - Franklin Ritter

A special Thank You to our Zoom Hosts, Sydney and Isabella Stevens and our Social Hosts, Derek and Sandy Gardiner.

**Please be in a posture of praise.*

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

SOURCE NOTES

The Call to Worship is by Ashley Danyew. The Prayer of Dedication is by Laura Hodges.



ADVENT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 26 — December 24 Advent Services 10:30am*

December 3 — Mitten Tree Sunday 10:30am*

December 3 — Carols and Cocoa 3:30pm

December 10 — Advent Music Sunday 10:30am*

December 17 — Pageant Sunday 10:30am* (Christmas Party after Worship)

December 21 — Longest Night - Zoom only 6:00pm; in person 7:00pm

December 24 — Christmas Eve worship 6:00pm*

December 31 — Hymn Sing 10:30am

**hybrid service*

