

Pilgrim Congregational Church, United Church of Christ December 10, 2023

Music licensed for streaming / podcast by OneLicense.

- PRELUDE: Wachet Auf ("Sleepers Awake")— JS Bach
- ❖ GATHERING HYMN: Dona Nobis Pacem
- OPENING HYMN: With Joy Draw Water*
- ANTHEM: A Christmas Antiphonal by Hal H. Hopson
- RESPONSE HYMN: Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming
- OFFERTORY: Psalm 34: The Cry of the PoorJohn Foley
- CLOSING HYMN: My Soul Gives Glory to My God*
- POSTLUDE: Trumpet Tune on 'Wachet Auf'
 Martha Sobaje

*From The New Century Hymnal, Copyright 1995 The Pilgrim Press, Permission is granted for this one time use.







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.

Worship Sunday, December 10 2023

PRELUDE

Wachet Auf ("Sleepers Awake") — JS Bach

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

Rich Edmiston

PASSING THE PEACE

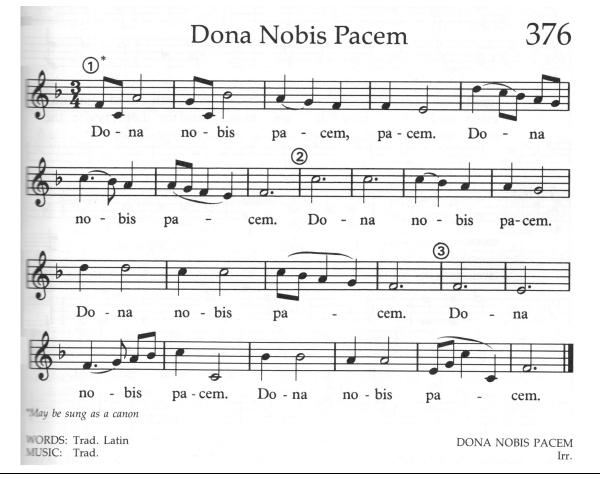
ONE: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Let us share the peace

of Christ with one another.

*GATHERING HYMN Dona Nobis Pacem



*CALL TO WORSHIP Rich Edmiston

Psalm 34 in conversation with the Magnificat

ONE: O magnify our God with me and let us exalt God's name together.

ALL: Our souls magnify the Lord. Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

ONE: We will bless the Lord at all times;

God's praise shall continually be in our mouths.

ALL: Our souls magnify the Lord.

God's mercy endures from generation to generation.

ONE: Let our souls makes their boasts in the Lord;

Let the humble hear and be glad.

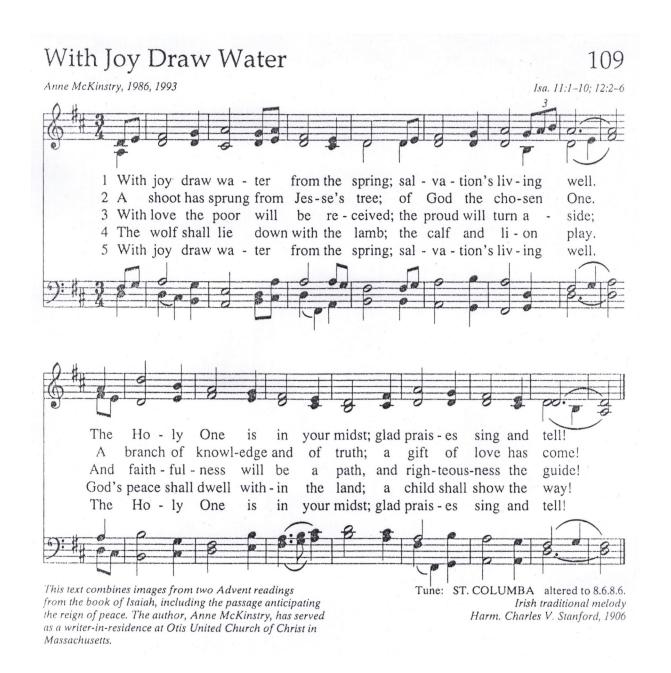
ALL: Our souls magnify the Lord for the Mighty One has done great things.

OPENING PRAYER

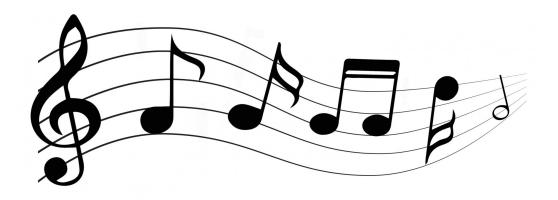
O God our deliverer, you cast down the mighty, and lift up those of no account: as Elizabeth and Mary embraced with songs of liberation, so may we also be pregnant with your Spirit, and affirm one another in hope for the world, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

With Joy Draw Water — Black Hymnal 109



1 With joy draw water from the spring; salvation's living well. The holy One is in your midst; glad praises sing and tell! 2 A shoot has spring from Jesse's tree; of God the chosen One. A branch of knowledge and of truth; a gift of love has come! 3 With love the poor will be received; the proud will turn aside; And faithfulness will be a path, and righteousness the guide! 4 The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and lion play. God's peace shall dwell with-in the land; a child shall show the way! 5 With joy draw water from the spring; salvation's living well. The Holy One is in your midst; glad praises sing and tell!



LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

ONE: When one candle is lit, hope begins to bloom.

ALL: When two candles are lit, we glimpse peace.

ONE: When three candles are lit, the joy of the Christ-child is near.

ALL: When three candles are lit, we proclaim joy.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

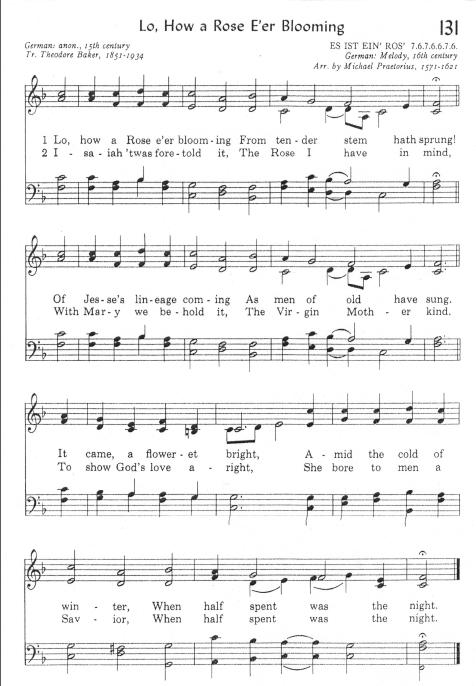
ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM A Christmas Antiphonal by Hal H. Hopson, Soloist Isabella Stevens, handbells by Rev. Reebee and Dot Bowe

SERMON Rev. Reebee Girash

*RESPONSE HYMN

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming — Red Hymnal 131



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming As men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half spent was the night.

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

Psalm 34: The Cry of the Poor — John Foley

*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

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth - giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

My Soul Gives Glory to My God — Black Hymnal 119 next page

*BENEDICTION Rev. Reebee Girash

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on 'Wachet Auf' — Martha Sobaje

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

A special Thank You to our Liturgist, Rich Edmiston, our social hosts, Lesley Morrison and the Moffitt Clark Family and our Zoom Host, Duncan Todd

^{*}Please be in a posture of praise.



Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816

Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

1My soul gives glory to my God, My heart pours out its praise. God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

motifs that proclaim the justice of God, is known as the

"Magnificat," the opening word of its Latin translation.

2 My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts, dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.

4 Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure, leaves hungry spirits satisfied, the rich seem suddenly poor.

5 Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress, remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

<u>December 10</u> — Advent Music Sunday 10:30am*

<u>December 17</u> — **Pageant Sunday** 10:30am*

<u>December 21</u> — Longest Night (Zoom only 6:30pm); In person 7:00pm

<u>December 24</u> — Worship Service (brief prayer service without music) 10:30am*

<u>December 24</u> — Christmas Eve Worship - **A festival of Lessons and Carols** 6:00pm*

<u>December 31</u> — Hymn Sing 10:30am*

*hybrid

SOURCE NOTES

The Opening Prayer is by Janet Morley. The Prayer of Dedication is from the Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. Cover photo: Madonna and Child by Anthony VanArsdale. Copyright permission granted by National Black Catholic Congress.

