



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

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- ❖ PRELUDE: Wachtet 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 Poor
— John Foley
- ❖ CLOSING HYMN: My Soul Gives Glory to My
God*
- ❖ POSTLUDE: Trumpet Tune on 'Wachtet Auf'
— Martha Sobaje

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PILGRIM

Congregational Church



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



**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

PASSING THE PEACE

Rich Edmiston

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

Dona Nobis Pacem 376

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem. Do - na
no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.
Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na
no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

May be sung as a canon

WORDS: Trad. Latin
MUSIC: Trad.

DONA NOBIS PACEM
Irr.

*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 make 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

With Joy Draw Water



109

Anne McKinstry, 1986, 1993


Isa. 11:1-10; 12:2-6



1 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.
2 A shoot has sprung from Jes-se's tree; of God the cho-sen One.
3 With love the poor will be re - ceived; the proud will turn a - side;
4 The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and li - on play.
5 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.



The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!
A branch of knowl-edge and of truth; a gift of love has come!
And faith - ful - ness will be a path, and righ-teous-ness the guide!
God's peace shall dwell with-in the land; a child shall show the way!
The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!



This text combines images from two Advent readings from the book of Isaiah, including the passage anticipating the reign of peace. The author, Anne McKinstry, has served as a writer-in-residence at Otis United Church of Christ in Massachusetts.

Tune: ST. COLUMBA altered to 8.6.8.6.
Irish traditional melody
Harm. Charles V. Stanford, 1906

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

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

131

German: anon., 15th century
Tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934

ES IST EIN' ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.
German: Melody, 16th century
Arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The Rose I have in mind,

Of Jes-se's lin-eage com-ing As men of old have sung.
With Mar-y we be-hold it, The Vir-gin Moth-er kind.

It came, a flower-et bright, A-mid the cold of
To show God's love a-right, She bore to men a

win-ter, When half spent was the night.
Sav-ior, When half spent was the night.

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 be in a posture of praise.*

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

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

119

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Sam. 2:1-10

1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,
4 Love casts the might-y from their thrones, pro-motes the in - se - cure,
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup - ports those in dis - tress,

God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar - vel - ous ways.
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
dis - pens - ing jus - tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
leaves hun - gry spir - its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
re - mem - ber - ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

This New Testament canticle, with its mosaic of liberation motifs that proclaim the justice of God, is known as the "Magnificat," the opening word of its Latin translation.

Tune: MORNING SONG C.M.
Melody from Kentucky Harmony, 1816
Harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940

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

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

December 10 — Advent Music Sunday 10:30am*

December 17 — **Pageant Sunday** 10:30am*

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

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

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

December 31 — 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.

