



**Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
December 3, 2023**

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- ❖ PRELUDE: Num Kommt der Heiden Heiland
— JS Bach
- ❖ GATHERING HYMN: Prepare the Way of the
Lord — Taizé
- ❖ OPENING HYMN: O Come All Ye Faithful,
- ❖ ANTHEM: Silent Night arr Craig Courtney
- ❖ COMMUNION HYMN: Jesus is Here Right
Now*
- ❖ COMMUNION MUSIC: Make Me a Channel
of Your Peace arr. Jane Holstein
- ❖ CLOSING HYMN: Awake Awake and Greet
the New Morn *
- ❖ POSTLUDE: Advent Meditation — Denis
Eliot

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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 3, 2023

PRELUDE

Num Kommt der Heiden Heiland — JS Bach

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING THE PEACE

Jeff Boehm, Deven A.

ONE: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

*GATHERING HYMN

Prepare the Way of the Lord — Taizé

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Canon

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord, and

all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, a voice has been heard in the wilderness, preparing the way for your Child to arrive in this world. Prepare our hearts to receive your Child, and help us prepare for his coming. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

ONE: We light these candles as people of hope.

ONE: We light these candles as peace makers.

ALL: Peace to this house, and every home.

ONE: Let us pursue peace with everyone we meet,

ALL: As we follow the Christ-child's way of peace.

ONE: And may mercy, peace and love be ours in abundance this Advent.

*OPENING HYMN & MITTEN TREE INGATHERING

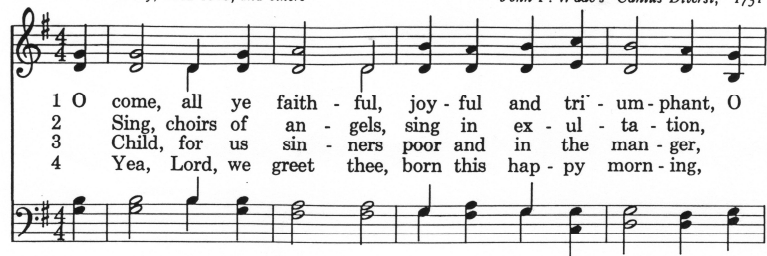
O Come All Ye Faithful—Red Hymnal 132

DEDICATING OUR GIFTS

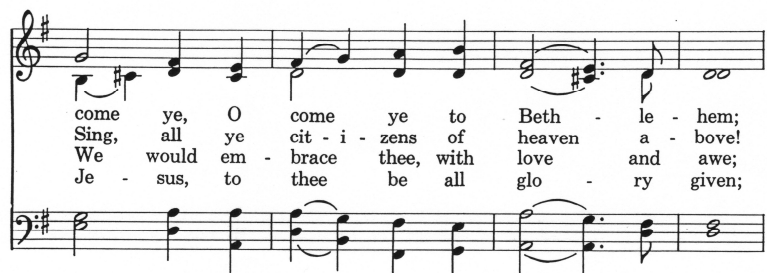
Rev. Reebee Girash

Latin: John F. Wade, 1711-1786
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irregular
John F. Wade's "Cantus Diversi," 1751



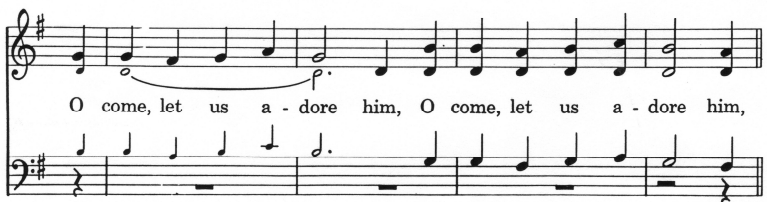
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,



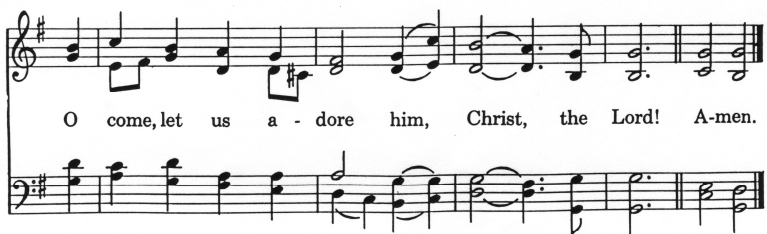
come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
We would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord! A-men.

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest; [Refrain]

3 Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,

We would embrace thee, with love and awe;

Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

[Refrain]

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy

morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

[Refrain]

SCRIPTURE READINGS — Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers; the flower fades, [[when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers; the flower fades,]] but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1:1-4

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,' "

⁴so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

ONE: Here end the readings. Hear what the Spirit of God is saying to the church

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Silent Night arr Craig Courtney

REFLECTION

Rev. Reebee Girash

INTERGENERATIONAL PRAYER ACTIVITY

Sarah Jane Fuller

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Like a Shepherd — Robert J. Dufford

*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



*COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus is Here Right Now — Black Hymnal 348

HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus Is Here Right Now 348

*Leon C. Roberts, 1986; alt.
not fast*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It begins with a treble and bass staff for the voice, followed by a grand staff for the piano. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo marking is 'not fast'. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus is here right now. Je - sus is here. With this bread and wine true peace you'll find; Christ Je - sus is here right now. (right now).' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand. There are several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over the notes) in both the voice and piano parts. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Somewhat detached throughout

here. With this bread and wine true peace you'll

find; Christ Je - sus is here right now. (right now).

to beginning Last time, end

Jesus is here right now. Jesus is here.
With this bread and wine true peace
you'll find;
Christ Jesus is here right now.
(right now).

Composer Leon C. Roberts is perhaps best known for his "Mass of St. Augustine" and other liturgical compositions that appear in Lead Me, Guide Me: The African-American Catholic Hymnal. His work is greatly influenced by priest and composer Clarence Joseph Rivers.

Tune: JESUS IS HERE 6.4.5.4.6.
Leon C. Roberts, 1986

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE SERVICE OF COMMUNION

*Our service of communion is open to all who wish to participate.
The sacrament is a gift from God, and all are welcome to receive it.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy and Loving God, we give thanks for the promise of this sacred Season and for the peace and joy we find in the Christ Child. Yet even as we rejoice, we recognize that we often fail to live with the hope of redemption. We fail to make peace. We lose focus on the one who is the Source of our joy. Forgive us, God, and restore our hope in you.

We pray with the words Jesus taught, saying:

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.

COMMUNION PRAYER

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION MUSIC Make Me a Channel of Your Peace arr. Jane Holstein

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Powerful Redeemer, for the miracle of this table we are thankful. For the blessings of forgiveness, reconciliation and community, we rejoice. Renew your love's power in us, that we might share these blessings with our neighbors. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN Awake Awake and Greet the New Morn — Black Hymnal 107

BENEDICTION

Rev. Reebee Girash

POSTLUDE Advent Meditation — Denis Eliot

**Please be in a posture of praise.*

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In deep - est night Christ's com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, whose hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 cold the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

Je - sus is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing.
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less;

1 Awake! Awake and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
sing out your joy, for Jesus is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
to open wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.

2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
whose humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving kindness,
the thunder of the anthems roll
to shatter all hate and injustice.

3 In deepest night Christ's coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
One without voice breaks forth in song,
a lame one leaps in wonder,
the weak are raised above the strong,
and weapons are broken asunder.

4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though cold the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer,
and love, our endless story,
may God fill every day we share,
and bring us at last into glory.

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

SOURCE NOTES

The Communion Liturgy is from Feasting on the Word.

A special Thank You to our Liturgists, Deven A. and Jeff Boehm, our social hosts, Sadhna Vora and the Moffitt Family and our Zoom Host, Doug Johnston

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www.PilgrimCongregational.org

Sunday Worship 10:30 am

