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- ❖ **PRELUDE**: If With All Your Hearts — arr. Robert Lau
- ❖ **OPENING HYMN**: God of Change and Glory\*
- ❖ **ANTHEM**: Jubilate Deo — Taizé
- ❖ **RESPONSE HYMN**: What a Covenant\*
- ❖ **OFFERTORY**: The Reign of God — Delores Dufner
- ❖ **CLOSING HYMN**: Blest Be The Tie That Binds\*
- ❖ **POSTLUDE**: Prelude and Fugue in G minor — JS Bach

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

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***Today's service will be recorded.***

**Pilgrim Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
January 21, 2024**



**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.

**Visual and Hearing Aids**

Hearing devices may be picked up from the table in the narthex. **Large Print bulletins** and Sermons texts are available.

***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.*

## Worship Sunday, January 21, 2024

PRELUDE

If With All Your Hearts — arr. Robert Lau

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING THE PEACE

Deborah Burger

ONE: Peace be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Inspired by Psalm 62)

Deborah Burger

ONE: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**ALL: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

ONE: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**ALL: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

ONE: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**ALL: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

# \*OPENING HYMN

## God of Change and Glory – Black Hymnal 177

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### God of Change and Glory

1 Cor. 12:4-27

Al Carmines, 1973

1 God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,  
 2 God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,  
 3 Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,

when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.  
 you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds.  
 you are still cre - at - ing end - less love and light.

In the midst of chang-ing ways give us still the grace to praise.  
 As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.  
 This we see, as shad - ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.

*Refrain*

Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways.

In our dif - fer - ence is bless-ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise

one Giv-er, one Word, one Spir-it, one God known in man-y ways,

hal-low-ing our days. For the Giv-er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

1 God of change and glory, God of time and space,  
when we fear the future, give to us your grace.

In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.

Refrain:

Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.

In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise

one Giver, one Word, one, Spirit, one God known in many ways,

hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

2 God of many colors, God of many signs,

you have made us different, blessing many kinds.

As the old ways disappear, let your love cast our our fear. [Refrain]

3. Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,

you are still creating endless love and light.

This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart. [Refrain]

## OPENING PRAYER

Deborah Burger

**God of Many Seasons, we enter into your presence with joy and thanksgiving. We acknowledge all the ways that you meet us as we gather in your name. May our songs and prayers be a sweet sound in your ears. May we demonstrate our trust in you through both praise and lament. May our hearts yearn, our spirits stir, and our souls wait in holy hope and expectation. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 4:21-34

Deborah Burger

<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? <sup>22</sup>For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. <sup>23</sup>Let anyone with ears to hear listen!' <sup>24</sup>And he said to them, 'Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. <sup>25</sup>For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.'

<sup>26</sup>He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. <sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'



<sup>30</sup>He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

Jubilate Deo — Taizé

***Children are invited to participate in a Service Project at this time.***

SERMON

Rev. Reebee Girash

## \*RESPONSE HYMN

471

Deut. 33:27

### What a Covenant

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.



1 What a \*cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -



last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing  
last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing  
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing



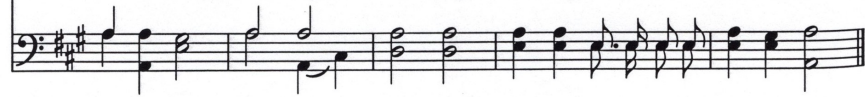
#### Refrain



on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from  
on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.



## What a Covenant — Black Hymnal 471

1 What a covenant, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all  
alarms; leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
Oh, how bright the path grows from day to  
day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

[Refrain]

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Savior near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

OFFERTORY

The Reign of God — Delores Dufner

\*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

**Eternal God, magnify these gifts that we return in gratitude and for your glory. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

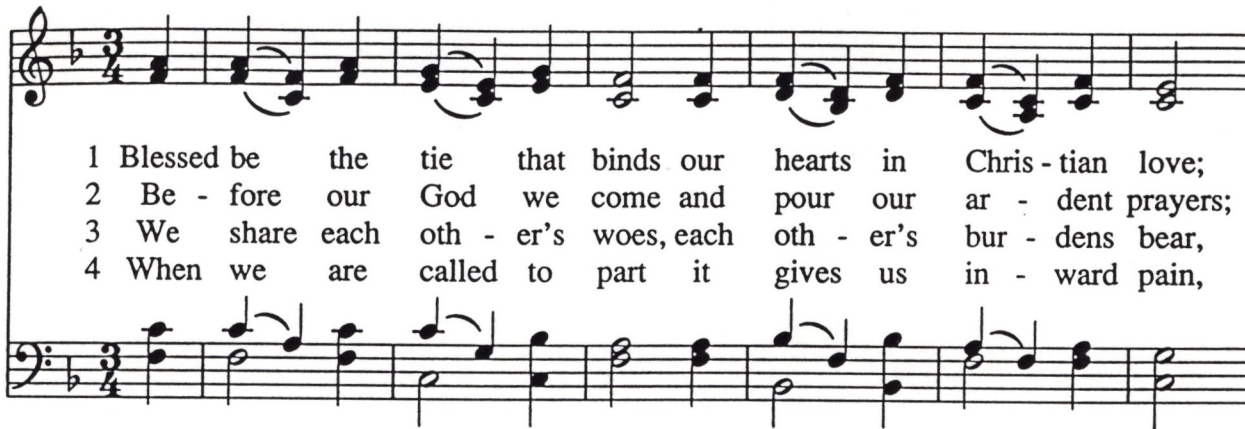
Blessed Be The Tie That Binds — Black Hymnal 393

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

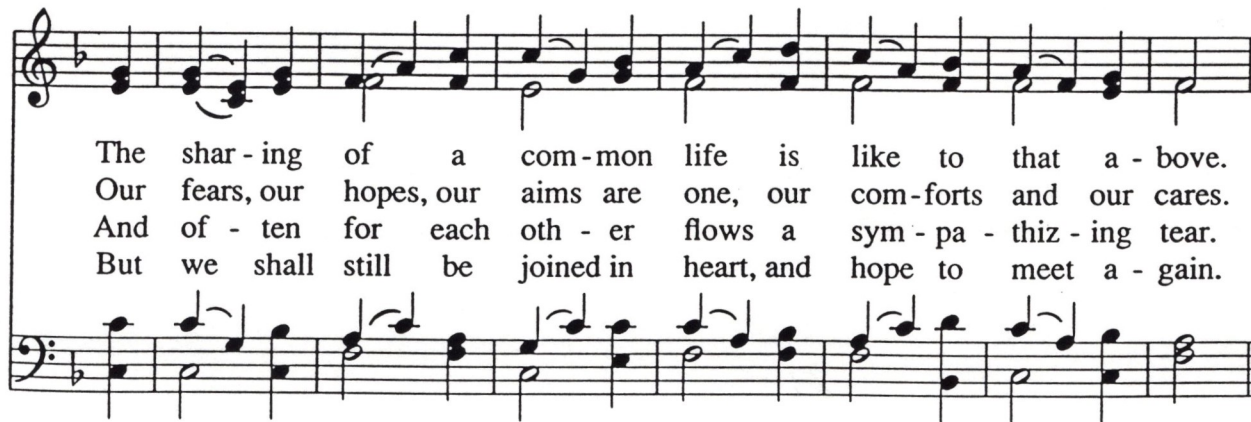
393

*John Fawcett, 1782; alt.*

*Gal. 3:28; 6:2; Col. 3:13-15*



1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2 Be - fore our God we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,  
4 When we are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,



The shar - ing of a com - mon life is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
The sharing of a common life is like to that above.

2 Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

3 We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

4 When we are called to part it gives us inward pain,  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in G minor — JS Bach

## SOURCE NOTES

*Our Liturgy is adapted from UCC Worship Ways by Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay.*

Thank you to our Liturgist, Deborah Burger, our Zoom host, Doug Johnston and our coffee hour hosts, Mary Mackie, Marjorie Kelland and Son-Mey Chiu.

