



**Pilgrim Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ**

**A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation  
February 18, 2024 — First Sunday of Lent**

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- ❖ **PRELUDE:** Erbarm dich mein O Herre  
Gott — Georg Walther
- ❖ **OPENING HYMN:** Our God, Our Help in  
Ages Past
- ❖ **ANTHEM:** When Jesus Wept\*
- ❖ **RESPONSE HYMN:** Give Me a Clean  
Heart\*
- ❖ **OFFERTORY:** Wash Me Clean — Richard  
Bruxvoort Colligan
- ❖ **CLOSING HYMN:** O God How We Have  
Wandered\*
- ❖ **POSTLUDE:** Vater Unser in Himmelreich  
— JS Bach

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

## Worship Sunday, February 18, 2024

PRELUDE

Erbarm dich mein O Herre Gott — Georg Walther

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING THE PEACE

ONE: May you be at peace in mind, peace in body, and peace with your neighbors, family and friends. May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

GATHERING SONG

Spirit of the Living God

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: From where will our help come?

**ALL: Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

ONE: Who is our keeper?

**ALL: The lord is our keeper, by day and by night.**

ONE: How long will God protect us?

**ALL: God will keep our going out and our coming in, from this time on and forevermore.**

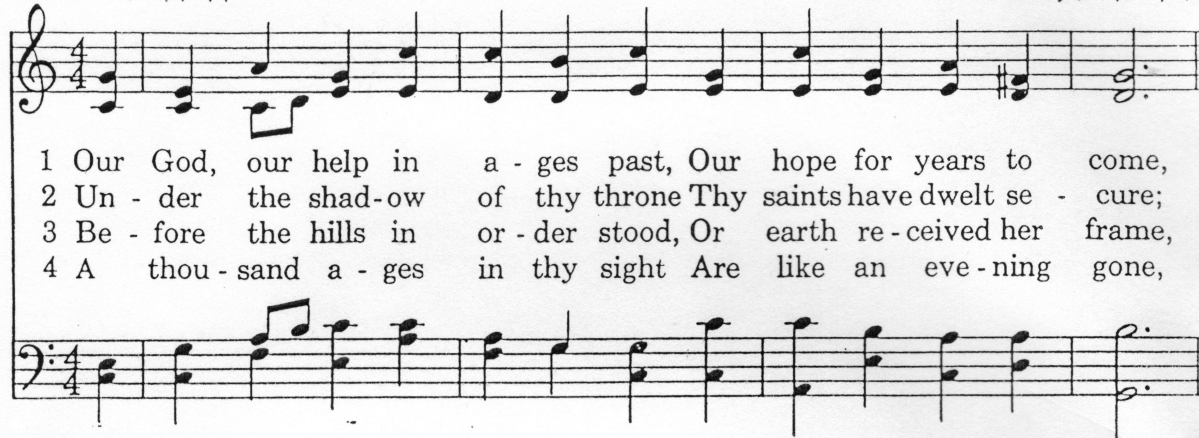
## \*OPENING HYMN

## Our God, Our Help in Ages Past — Red Hymnal 1

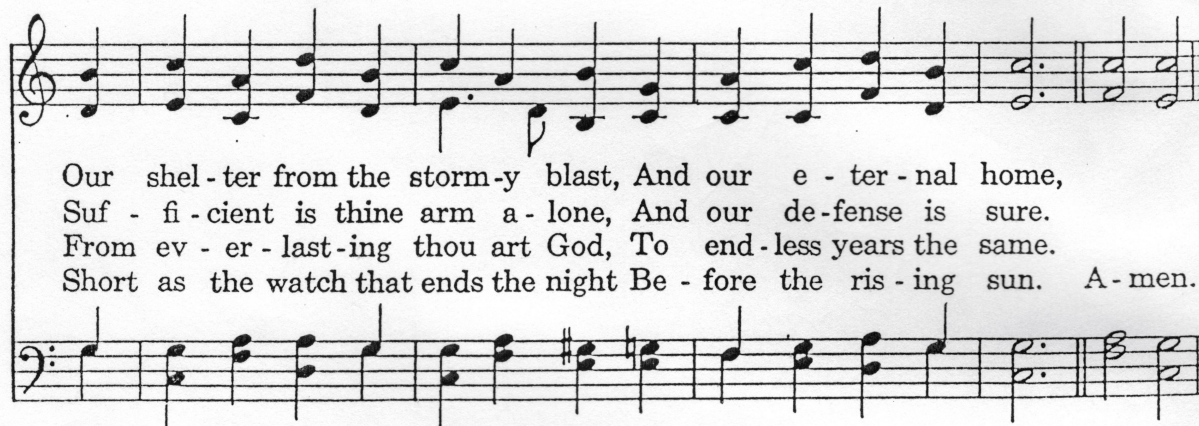
### Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Based on Psalm 90  
Isaac Walls, 1674-1748

ST. ANNE C.M.  
Attr. to William Croft, 1678-1727



1 Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad-ow of thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, And our e - ter - nal home,  
Suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.  
From ev - er - last - ing thou art God, To end - less years the same.  
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun. A - men.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

6 Our God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while troubles last,  
And our eternal home.

A descant may be found at No. 583

ADORATION AND PRAISE

1 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home,  
2 Under the shadow of thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is your arm alone, And our defense is sure.  
3 Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting thou art God, To endless years the same.  
4 A thousand ages in thy sight Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.  
5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.  
6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guard while troubles last, And our eternal home!



## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, from your word we learn there is enough for all if we would learn to share it.**

**Your earth is a wonder of abundance and fertility.**

**Yet greed, scarcity and desire for power continue to grip your children.**

**Turn us from greed to generosity, from scarcity to sharing,  
from power over to power with.**

**In humility we confess to harming your creation and your children.**

**God our Maker, so move us by the wonder of creation, that we repent and  
care more deeply.**

**In your grace, turn us toward love. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Reebee Girash

## SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 10:17-31

<sup>17</sup>As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother." '

<sup>20</sup>He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.'

<sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own,

and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

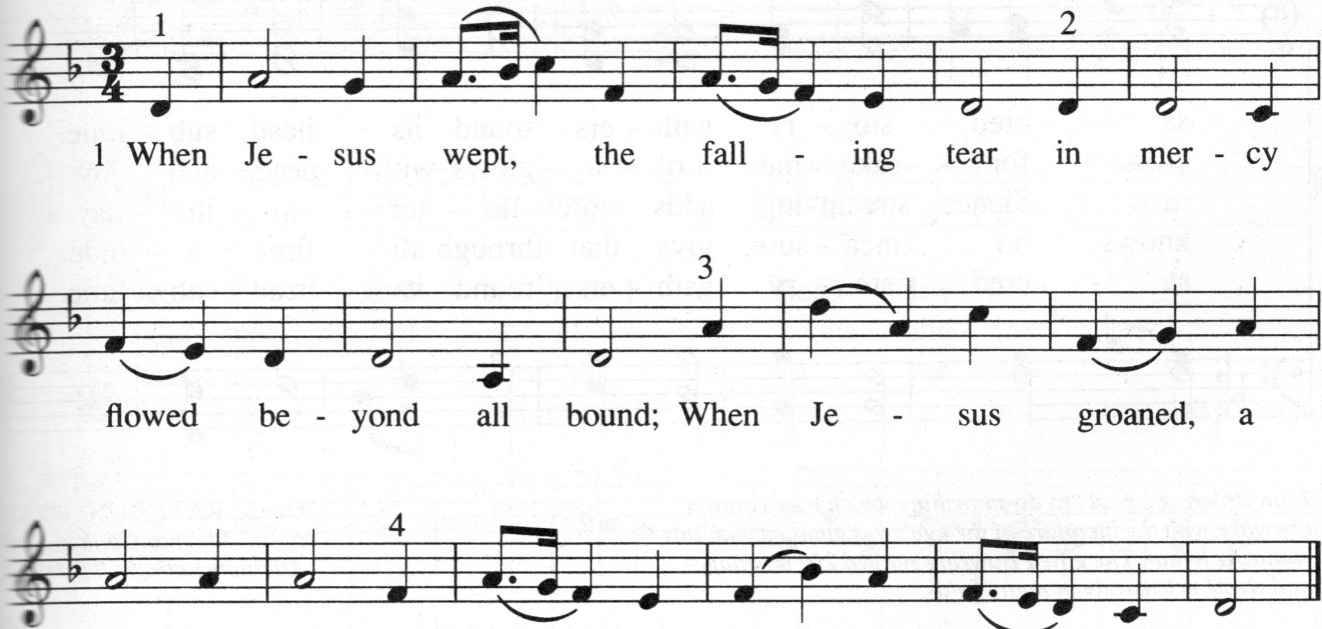
<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

**When Jesus Wept** 192

*William Billings, 1770* *John 11:35*



1 When Je - sus wept, the fall - ing tear in mer - cy

flowed be - yond all bound; When Je - sus groaned, a

trem - bling fear seized all the guilt - y world a - round.

*William Billings served as choir leader at Old South Church (Congregational) in Boston. A self-taught singing-school teacher and composer, he also worked as a tanner. "When Jesus Wept" is especially beautiful when sung as a canon, with groups entering as indicated by the numbers above.*

Tune: WHEN JESUS WEPT L.M.  
*William Billings, 1770*  
New England Psalm Singer

When Jesus wept, the falling tear in mercy flowed beyond all bound;  
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear seized all the guilty world around.

Children are invited to participate in Sunday School at this time. Please gather at the rear of the Sanctuary with Sarah Jane Fuller and Izzy Leginsky.

SERMON

Rev. Reebee Girash and Dr. Steve Van Evera

\*RESPONSE HYMN

Give Me a Clean Heart — Black Hymnal 188

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.**



## Give Me a Clean Heart

Ps. 51:1-12

Margaret J. Douroux, 1970; alt.

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

The first system of the musical score is in 6/8 time, key of B-flat major. It features a vocal melody on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on grand staff (treble and bass staves). The lyrics are 'Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.'

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are 'God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.'

For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless - ings.

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are 'For I'm not wor - thy of all these bless - ings.'

Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low you.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are 'Give me a clean heart and I'll fol-low you.'

Give me a clean heart  
so I may serve you.

God fix my heart  
so that I may be used by you.

For I'm not worthy  
of all these blessings.

Give me a clean heart  
and I'll follow you.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

OFFERTORY

Wash Me Clean — Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

\*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***

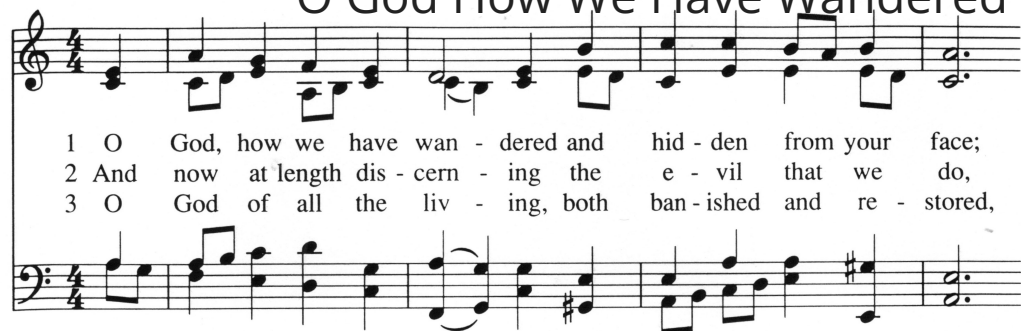
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

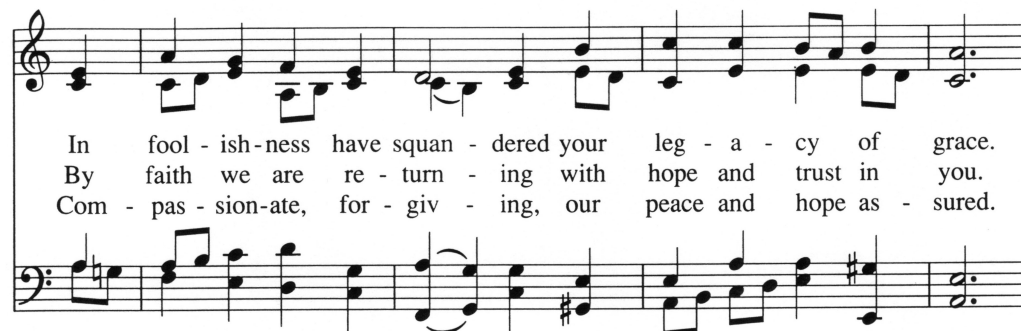
**Great and righteous God,  
we bring these gifts together as a tangible  
representation of our commitment to your work here on earth.  
We know you are interested in the flourishing of life and creation,  
and we are a part of this creation project when we work together.  
So take these gifts and offerings and multiply them so love and justice  
might expand among us and in our community.  
Thank you for the abundance you already share with us each day because  
you are a faithful God. Amen.**

# \*CLOSING HYMN

## O God How We Have Wandered — Black Hymnal 202



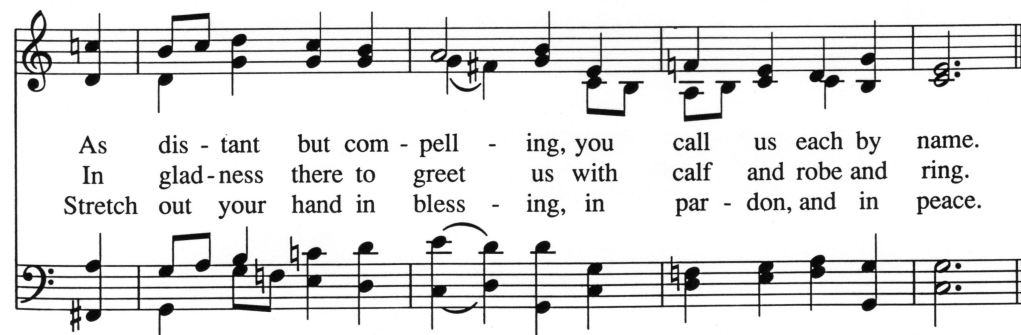
1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



In fool - ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.  
Com - pas - sion-ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.



But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic-ing bring,  
Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.



As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.  
In glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

1 O God, how we have wandered and hidden from your face;  
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.  
But how, in exile dwelling, we turn with fear and shame,  
As distant but compelling, you call us each by name.

2 And now at length discerning the evil that we do,  
By faith we are returning with hope and trust in you.  
In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoice bring,  
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

3 O God of all the living, both banished and restored,  
Compassionate, forgiving, our peace and hope assured.  
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Vater Unser in Himmelreich — JS Bach

Thank you to our Zoom host, Isabella Stevens, our Co-Liturgist,  
Steve Van Evera and our Coffee host, Lesley Morrison.



## SOURCE NOTES

*Portions of the liturgy are from Illustrated Ministry and used with license permission through purchase from Illustrated Ministry. Portions of the Prayer of Confession are from the Iona Community.*

**Please join us for all our upcoming Lent and Easter Worship services:**

Sunday Morning Worship — 10:30 am\*

Palm Sunday Service — March 24, 2024\*

Maundy Thursday Service — March 28, 2024 at 7:30 pm\*

Easter Sunday — March 31, 2024\*

*\*hybrid*

