



Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
March 3, 2024 — Third Sunday of Lent

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- ❖ **PRELUDE**: Prelude in C Major by J.S. Bach
- ❖ **GATHERING SONG**: Spirit of the Living God*
- ❖ **OPENING HYMN**: When Jesus Wept*
- ❖ **ANTHEM**: Lonesome Valley arr. Gilbert M. Martin
- ❖ **RESPONSE HYMN**: Sweet Hour of Prayer*
- ❖ **OFFERTORY**: All Of My Days by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
- ❖ **HYMN**: Let Us Break Bread Together
- ❖ **CLOSING HYMN**: There Is A Balm in Gilead*
- ❖ **POSTLUDE**: Mazurka in G Minor by Frédéric Chopin

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Today's service will be recorded.

PRELUDE

Prelude in C Major by J.S. Bach

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF 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 HYMN

Spirit of the Living God



Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Come, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,

ALL: In God's house, you will find rest.

ONE: Take the yoke of Christ upon you, and learn from him;

ALL: For Christ is gentle and humble in heart. We will find rest for our souls.

ONE: For his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

ALL: Under this light and easy yoke there is rest for the weary and sleep for the exhausted.

ONE: Come and worship. Find warmth and care under the wide wings of our Mother God.

ALL: We are a people in need of a soft place to land.

ONE: Come and worship. Be filled and restored by the healing breath of God's Spirit.

ALL: Amen. Let us worship together!

OPENING HYMN

When Jesus Wept — Black Hymnal 192

OPENING PRAYER

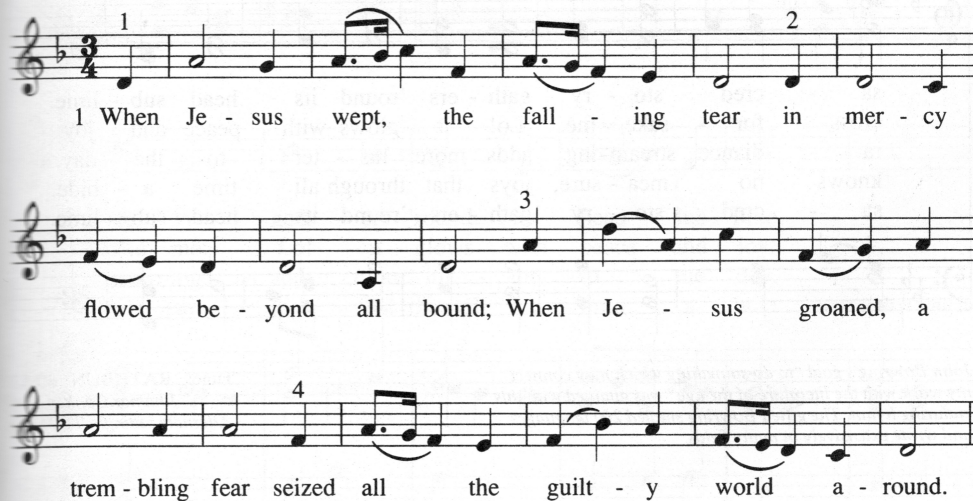
Holy God, we give You praise and honor and glory, for You have always remained true. Your steadfast love endures forever. We gather our hearts and minds in worship, knowing that You are faithful and just. Guide us away from distracting thoughts, worries and cares, and instead, help us to focus on You so we can know Your great love in our lives, Your mercy and forgiveness and compassion, and be filled with hope to live out Your gospel into the world. Amen.

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:13-17

¹³Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. ¹⁴And they came and said to him, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? ¹⁵Should we pay them, or should we not?' But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, 'Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.' ¹⁶And they brought one. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' ¹⁷Jesus said to them, 'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they were utterly amazed at him.

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

ANTHEM

Lonesome Valley arr. Gilbert M. Martin

INTERGENERATIONAL LENT ACTIVITY

RESPONSE HYMN

Sweet Hour of Prayer — Black Hymnal 505

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

OFFERTORY

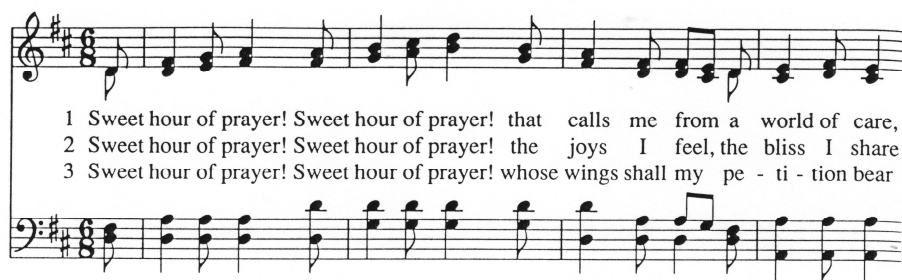
All Of My Days by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

DOXOLOGY

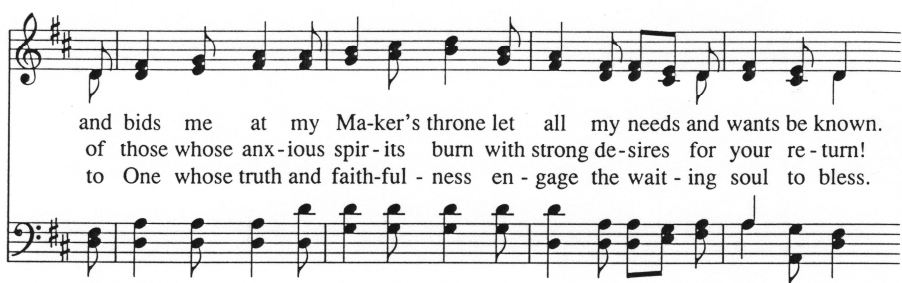
Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen *or*

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

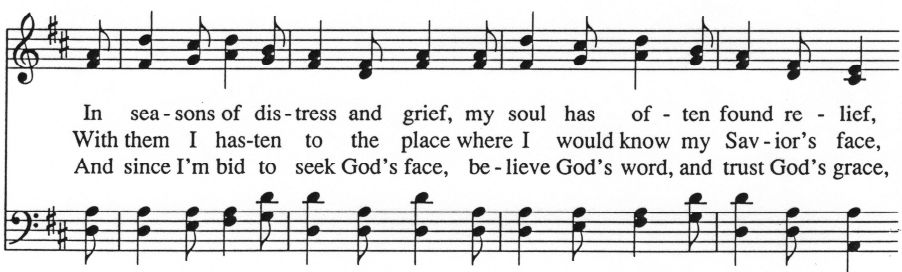
Sweet Hour of Prayer

William Walford, 1845; alt.


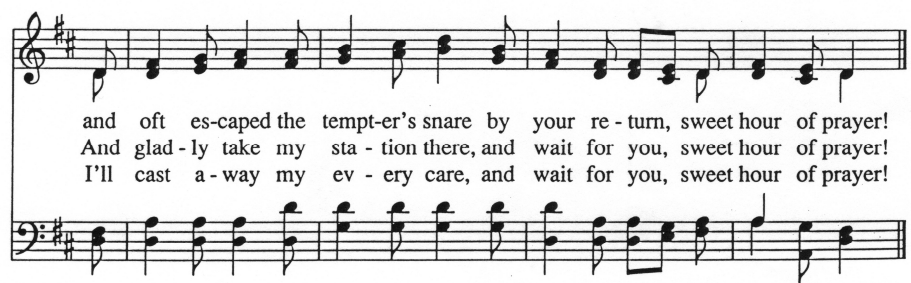
1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
 2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
 3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



and bids me at my Ma-ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.
 of those whose anx-ious spir-its burn with strong de-sires for your re-turn!
 to One whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.



In sea - sons of dis-tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,
 With them I has-ten to the place where I would know my Sav-ior's face,
 And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,



and oft es-caped the tempt-er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!
 And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
 I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

Although credited to a different poet when first published in 1845, researchers believe this hymn was written by William Walford. William Bradbury, a highly trained musician, sang under Lowell Mason in Boston and also wrote "Jesus Loves Me."

Tune: SWEET HOUR L.M.D.
William B. Bradbury, 1861

1 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of
prayer!
that calls me from a world of care,
and bids me at my Maker's throne
make all my needs and wants be known.
In seasons of distress and grief,
my soul has often found relief,
and oft escaped the tempt-er's snare
by your return, sweet hour of prayer!

2 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of
prayer!
the joys I feel, the bliss I share
of those whose anxious spirits burn
with strong desires for your return!
With them I hasten to the place
where I would know my Savior's face,
And gladly take my station there,
and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!



3 Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of
prayer!
whose wings shall my petition bear
to One whose truth and faithfulness
engage the waiting soul to bless.
And since I'm bid to seek God's face,
believe God's word, and trust God's grace,
I'll cast away my every care,
and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

*HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together — Red Hymnal 288

Let Us Break Bread Together

288

Negro Spiritual

LET US BREAK BREAD 7.3.7.3. with Refrain
Negro Melody

In unison

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

REFRAIN

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

1 Let us break bread together on our knees.
Let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain:

When I fall on my knees with my face to the
rising sun,
O Lord have mercy on me.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees.
Let us drink wine together on our knees.

[Refrain]

3 Let us praise God together on our knees.
Let us praise God together on our knees.
[Refrain]

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY 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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

Forgive us when we sin against our siblings, against your creation, against you.

Grant us the grace and humility to change, for the sake of building up your kingdom of love and justice.

We pray as Jesus taught, saying...

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.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

COMMUNION PRAYER

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, our healer, you have nourished our bodies with the bread of life and cup of blessing.

Our weary bodies and minds are renewed, and our spirits are filled with hope that your work on earth is not complete.

As we turn to face the world around us, bringing your light and love to our communities, we take this energy with us.

We are prepared and equipped to bring heaven to earth, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

There Is A Balm in Gilead — Black Hymnal 553

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

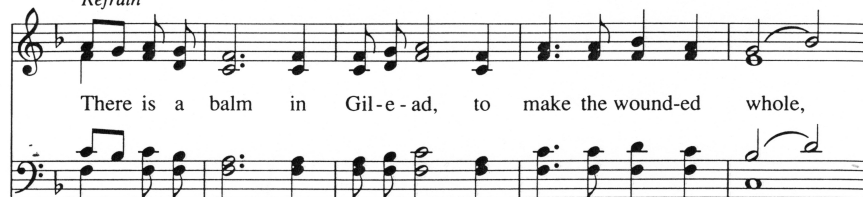
Mazurka in G Minor by Frédéric Chopin

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Jer. 8:18-22; 46:11; Acts 10:34-43

African-American spiritual; alt.

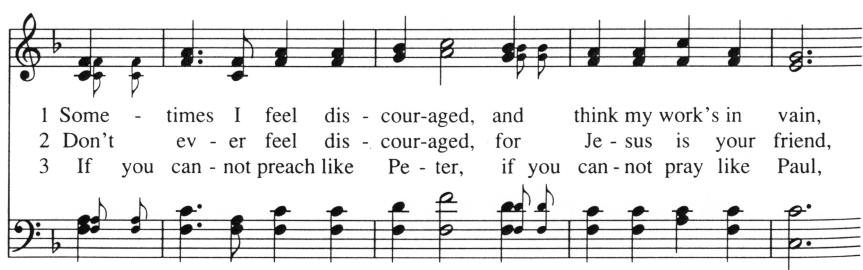
Refrain



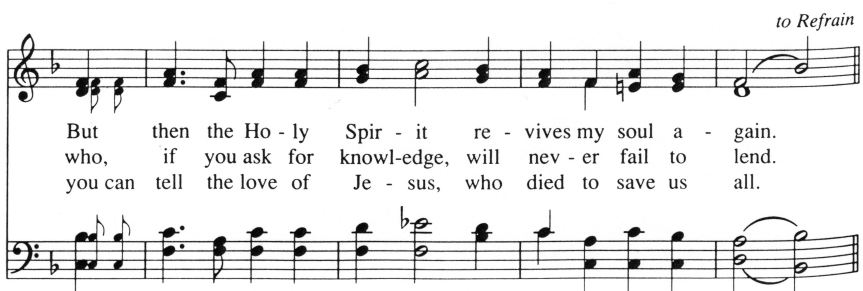
There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole,



there is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to heal the sin-sick soul.



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in vain,
2 Don't ev - er feel dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend,
3 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,



But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
who, if you ask for knowl-edge, will nev - er fail to lend.
you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

This is one of the most moving of the African-American spirituals because it illustrates the way in which the enslaved tried to encourage those who were feeling especially weighed down by the burden of their captivity.

Tune: BALM IN GILEAD Irr. with refrain
African-American spiritual

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again. [Refrain]

2 If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, "He died for all." [Refrain]

Thank you to our Zoom host, Mike Stevens and to our Coffee hour hosts, Elizabeth Chen and Rich Edmiston.



SOURCE NOTES

The Opening Prayer is by Mindy Welton-Mitchell. Portions of the liturgy are from Illustrated Ministry.

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*