



**Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
March 10, 2024 — Fourth Sunday of Lent**

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- ❖ **PRELUDE:** Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross — James Southbridge
- ❖ **OPENING HYMN:** Beautiful Jesus*
- ❖ **ANTHEM:** Ave Verum Corpus
by W.A. Mozart
- ❖ **RESPONSE HYMN:** The Gift of Love —
United Methodist Hymnal
- ❖ **OFFERTORY:** Ubi Caritas — Jacques
Berthier
- ❖ **CLOSING HYMN:** Renew Your Church*
- ❖ **POSTLUDE:** Liebster Jesu — JS Bach

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Today's service will be recorded.

WELCOME TO PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

PRELUDE

Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross — James Southbridge

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP (From Psalm 89)

ONE: We will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, for ever;

ALL: with our mouths we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

ONE: We declare that your steadfast love is established for ever;

ALL: your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

ONE: Let us praise God!

*OPENING HYMN

JESUS CHRIST

Beautiful Jesus — Black Hymnal 44

Beautiful Jesus

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 Beau - ti - ful Je - sus, Head of all cre - a - tion,
2 Beau - ti - ful spring - time, love - ly, green, and hope - ful,
3 Beau - ti - ful sun - shine, clear, so love - ly, moon - light,
4 All earth - ly beau - ty, all ce - les - tial ra - diance

God and the bless - ed Mar - y's child: I want to love you,
all earth ex - hales its sweet per - fume: Je - sus is sweet - er,
stars shine like an - gels, ranked through space: Je - sus shines bright - er,
fade when com - pared to Je - sus' face. Let me not cher - ish

praise and a - dore you, joy of my soul, so long de - sired.
Je - sus is pur - er, sad hearts at this, re - joice and bloom.
Je - sus shines clear - er, in per - fect beau - ty, love, and grace.
beau - ties that per - ish; let me this love - ly good em - brace.

1 Beautiful Jesus, Head of all creation,
God and the blessed Mary's child:
I want to love you,
praise and adore you, joy of my soul, so long desired.

2 Beautiful springtime, lovely, green, and hopeful,
all earth exhales its sweet perfume:
Jesus is sweeter,
Jesus is purer, sad hearts at this, rejoice and bloom.

3 Beautiful sunshine, clear, so lovely, moonlight
stars shine like angels, ranked through space:
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines clearer, in perfect beauty, love and
grace.

4 All earthly beauty, all celestial radiance
face when compared to Jesus' face.
Let me not cherish
beauties that perish, let me this lovely good
embrace.

This text, which has also been translated as "Fairest Lord Jesus" and "Beautiful Savior," was included in a German Catholic hymnal published in Münster. The melody, known by various names, is thought to be a Silesian folk tune.

Tune: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU 5.6.8.5.5.8.
Silesian folk melody
Harm. Richard S. Willis, 1850

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we confess that we have failed to live into the covenants You have made with us. We have turned aside from Your ways and sought our own gain. We have ignored those in need among us and fought with our neighbors. We have abandoned our love for You and failed to love one another, loving instead the things of this world: wealth, power, security, notoriety. Forgive us for not living the life You have assured us. Guide us away from the empty promises of the world we have made and into the promise of eternal life in You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Rev. Reebee Girash

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 12:13-17

²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' ²⁹Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." ³¹The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' ³²Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; ³³and "to love him with all the heart, and with

all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself",— this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.'

³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

³⁵While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, 'How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? ³⁶David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.' "

³⁷David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?' And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

³⁸As he taught, he said, 'Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.'

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

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

ANTHEM

Ave Verum Corpus by W.A. Mozart

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

*RESPONSE HYMN

The Gift of Love — United Methodist Hymnal (insert)

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

Rev. Reebee Girash

OFFERTORY

Ubi Caritas — Jacques Berthier

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks and our concern for those in need, including our fellow creatures on planet Earth.

*CLOSING HYMN

Renew Your Church — Black Hymnal 396

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Renew Your Church

Matt. 5:13-16; Luke 11:1-4; Mark 12:28-34

Kenneth L. Cober, 1960; alt.

1 Re - new your church, its min - is - tries re - store: both to serve
 2 Teach us your word, re - veal its truth di - vine; on our path
 3 Teach us to pray, for you are ev - er near; your still voice
 4 Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind, each and all—

and a - dore. Make us a - gain as salt through-out the land,
 let it shine. Tell of your works, your might-y acts of grace;
 let us hear. Our souls are rest - less till they rest in you;
 hu - man-kind! Break down old walls of prej - u - dice and hate;

and as light from a stand. 'Mid som-ber shad - ows
 from each page show your face. As you have sent your
 this is life, full and true. Be - fore your pres - ence
 leave us not to our fate. As you have loved and

of the night, where greed and ha - tred spread their blight, O
 Christ to save, in love to tri - umph o'er the grave, O
 keep us still that we may find for us your will And
 given your life to end hos - til - i - ty and strife, Your

send us forth with power en - dued. Help us, God, be re - newed.
 let our hearts with love be stirred. Help us, God, know your word.
 seek your guid - ance ev - ery day. Teach us, God, how to pray.
 grace we must be mind - ful of: Teach us, God, how to love.

1 Renew your church, our ministries restore:
both to serve and adore.

Make us again as salt throughout the land,
and as light from a stand.

'Mid somber shadows of the night,
where greed and hatreds spread their blight,
O send us forth with power endued,
help us, Lord, be renewed.

2 Teach us your Word, reveal its truth divine,
on our path let it shine;
tell of your works, your mighty acts of grace,
from each page show your face.

As you have loved us, sent your Son,
and our salvation now is won,
O let our hearts with love be stirred,
help us, Lord, know your Word.

3 Teach us to pray, for you are ever near,
your still voice let us hear.

Our souls are restless till they rest in you,
this the goal we pursue.

Before your presence keep us still
that we may find for us your will,
and seek your guidance every day,
teach us, Lord, how to pray.

4 Teach us to love, with strength of heart and
mind,
each and all, humankind;
break down old walls of prejudice and hate,
leave us not to our fate.

As you have loved and given your life
to end hostility and strife,
O share your grace from heaven above,
teach us, Lord, how to love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Liebster Jesu — JS Bach

Thank you to our Zoom host, Doug Johnston.

SOURCE NOTES

The Prayer of Confession is by Mindy Welton-Mitchell. The Prayer of Dedication is from Season of Creation.



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*