



**Pilgrim Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
April 21, 2024  
Fourth Sunday of Eastertide**

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- ❖ **PRELUDE**: The Day of Resurrection  
— Dan R. Edwards
- ❖ **GATHERING HYMN**: Halle Halle
- ❖ **OPENING HYMN**: I Come to the  
Garden Alone\*
- ❖ **ANTHEM**: Now The Green Blade  
Rises arr. Stanley Pethel
- ❖ **RESPONSE HYMN**: My Shepherd Is  
the Living God\*
- ❖ **OFFERTORY**: Fugue X BWV 855 — JS  
Bach
- ❖ **CLOSING HYMN**: The Church's One  
Foundation\*
- ❖ **POSTLUDE**: Lift High the Cross arr.  
Larry Shackley

*\*From The New Century Hymnal, Copyright 1995  
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***Today's service will be recorded.***

PRELUDE

The Day of Resurrection — Dan R. Edwards

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

Halle Halle

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Deven A.

ONE: Praise the Eternal One, Creator of all that is.

**ALL: Let us Praise God from the heavens, and on the earth.**

ONE: Give thanks for creation, all people.

**ALL: We give thanks to our Creator.**

ONE: Let us praise God whose name is Love

**ALL: For God calls us forth to love.**

ONE: From the mountains to the ocean, from the valleys to the rivers

**ALL: For the trees and the creatures, for the flowers and birds**

ONE: We praise our Creator

**ALL: By living to Love.**

\*OPENING HYMN

237

I Come to the Garden Alone  
(In the Garden)

I Come to the Garden Alone — Black Hymnal 237

John 20:14-18

C. Austin Miles, 1912



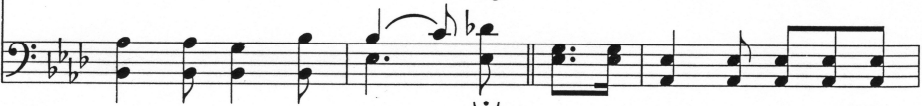
1 I come to the gar-den a-lone, while the dew is still on the  
2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their  
3 I'd stay in the gar-den with him, though the night a-round me be



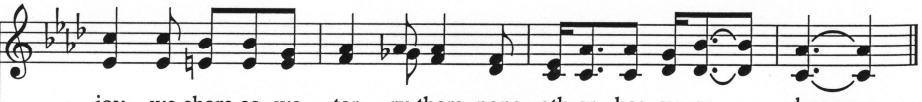
ros-es; And the voice I hear, fall-ing on my ear, the  
sing-ing; And the mel-o-dy that he gave to me with-  
fall-ing; But he bids me go; through the voice of woe his



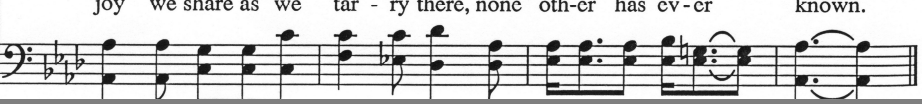
Son of God dis-clos-es.  
in my heart is ring-ing. And he walks with me, and he  
voice to me is call-ing.



talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, And the



joy we share as we tar-ry there, none oth-er has ev-cr known.



1 I come to the garden alone,  
while the dew is still on the roses;  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
the Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,  
and he tells me I am his own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
none other has ever known.

2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice  
is so sweet the birds hush their singing;  
And the melody that he gave to me  
within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]

3 I'd stay in the garden with him  
though the night around me be falling;  
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe  
his voice to me is calling. [Refrain]

## OPENING PRAYER

Deven A.

**Jesus, your followers established churches in communities near and far. As we learn about the early church, take us outside of ourselves and teach us to give away what you have given to us. Show us how to witness to your presence in places near and far. Amen**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

Deven A.

Acts 17:1-9 (NIV) and 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (NIV)

Acts 17:1-9

When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. <sup>2</sup>As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said. <sup>4</sup>Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.

<sup>5</sup>But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. <sup>6</sup>But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials, shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, <sup>7</sup>and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying

Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." <sup>8</sup>When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. <sup>9</sup>Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silas and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace and peace to you.

<sup>2</sup>We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup>We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <sup>7</sup>And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup>The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, <sup>9</sup>for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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

ANTHEM/SPECIAL MUSIC

Now The Green Blade Rises arr. Stanley Pethel  
John and Zac Girash

***Children are invited to participate in a Service Project at this time. Please join Sarah Jane Fuller and Izzy Leginsky at the rear of the sanctuary.***

SERMON

\*RESPONSE HYMN

My Shepherd Is the Living God — Black Hymnal 247

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

## My Shepherd Is the Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

C G C G7 C F G F C

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;  
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

Am G C F G Am G7 C G C

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.  
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

C F C Dm G C Am Dm Am FM7

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,  
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

Em C Am Dm Am Em C G7 C

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.  
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.  
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

- 1 My shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need;  
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed  
You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,  
And lead me for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
- 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;  
A word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.  
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;  
My cup with blessings over-flows, your oil anoints my head.
- 3 The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;  
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.  
There would I find a settled rest, while others come and go -  
No more a stranger or a guest but like a child at home.

#### THE 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

Fugue X BWV 855 — JS Bach

\*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

Rev. Reebee Girash

**Generous God, we offer these gifts in gratitude for all the blessings of our lives and in support of the ministries of this your church. May our gifts of time, talent and treasure bring blessings to those in need. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation — Black Hymnal 386

BENEDICTION

Rev. Reebee Girash

## The Church's One Foundation

*Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11**Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.*

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,  
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;  
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,  
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;  
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,  
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,

with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

1 The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
we are Christ's new creation by water and the word;  
From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;  
with precious blood Christ bought us for all eternity.

2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
one charter of salvation: one God, one faith, one birth,  
One name together blessing, one holy food we share,  
to one hope we are pressing, at one in work and prayer.

3 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,  
we wait the consummation of peace for ever more;  
Till with the vision glorious, our longing eyes are blessed,  
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

4 Yet we on earth have union with God, the Three-in-One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy! God, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

*\*Please be in a posture of praise.*

## SOURCE NOTES

*The Opening Prayer is from the Narrative Lectionary materials by Luther Seminary.*

Thank you to our Liturgist Deven A. and our Zoom Host, Mike Stevens.

## CALL TO MEETING

To all Pilgrim Church Members and Friends,

Pursuant to our Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, you are invited to the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Church on Sunday, April 28th, 2024, at 11:30 am or earlier, before the Benediction of the Worship Service.

### ***Agenda:***

Presentation of the recommended slate of 2024-2025  
Council officers: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer  
Congregational approval of 2024-2025 Council officers  
Any other pertinent matters that may arise  
Everyone is invited to attend; only members may vote.  
Council expects this will be a very brief meeting.  
Childcare will be provided.

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Boehm, Clerk