



PILGRIM
Congregational Church



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC
Worship Sunday — September 22, 2024

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- ❖ **PRELUDE:** There is a Green Hill Far
Away — Brian Glycannon
- ❖ **OPENING HYMN:** Sweet Sweet Spirit*
- ❖ **ANTHEM:** Canon of Praise arr. Hal
Hopson
- ❖ **RESPONSE HYMN:** We Love Your
Realm O God*
- ❖ **OFFERTORY:** Canticle of the Sun —
Marty Haugen
- ❖ **CLOSING HYMN:** Take My Gifts*
- ❖ **POSTLUDE:** Prelude in G — JS Bach

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Today's service will be recorded.

Sunday, September 22, 2024

PRELUDE

There is a Green Hill Far Away — Brian Glycannon

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Isabella Stevens

ONE: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Isabella Stevens

ONE: Listen to the voice of Creation

ALL: The voice of the Lord, calling over the waters.

ONE: Listen to the voice of Creation

ALL: The voice of the Lord, calling forth abundance.

ONE: Listen to the voice of Creation

ALL: The voice of the Lord, calling us forth.

ONE: Listen to the voice of Creation

ALL: The voice of the Lord, calling us to care for Creation.

ONE: Listen to the voice of Creation

ALL: We are listening. We are ready to serve.

***OPENING PRAYER**

Isabella Stevens

We are listening, Holy God. In this hour as we sing and reflect, as we pray and gather near in community, speak clearly to us. Help us to feel your presence, and fill us with your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Sweet Sweet Spirit — Black Hymnal 293

1. There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

2. There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know that Spirit's fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to stay with Jesus all the way."

Refrain:

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise. Without a doubt we'll
know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Doris Akers, 1962; alt.

Slowly

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
 2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
 know that Spir - it's full - ness; and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
 one to prof - it when you say, "I am

to Refrain

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
 going to stay with Je - sus all the way."

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; And for these bless - ings we

lift our hearts in praise. With - out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

This is one of the most popular gospel songs from the corpus of African-American songwriters who emerged during the golden age of gospel (1930-1969). Although this era was dominated by the Baptists, Doris Akers had Methodist roots.

Tune: SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT
 9.11.9.11. with refrain
 Doris Akers, 1962

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-7

Isabella Stevens

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ ³So he told them this parable: ⁴‘Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’” ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Canon of Praise arr. Hal Hopson — Pilgrim Choir

Children and Youth are invited to participate in an Art Project at this time.

SERMON

Rev. Alex Shea Will

*RESPONSE HYMN

We Love Your Realm O God — Black Hymnal 312
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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

We Love Your Realm, O God

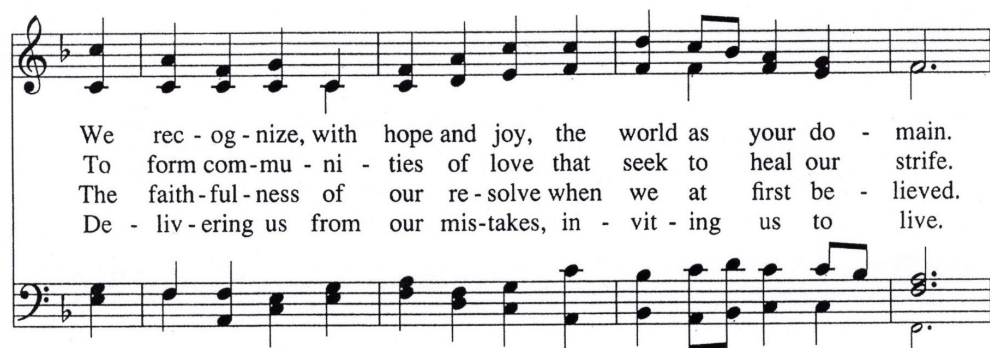
312

Timothy Dwight, 1801
Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

Ps. 26:8



1 We love your realm, O God, all places where you reign.
2 We love your church, O God, for Christ has given life
3 We recognize, with pain, that we have not achieved
4 Yet Christ, our friend and guide, continues to forgive,



We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.
To form communities of love that seek to heal our strife.
The faithfulness of our resolve when we at first believed.
Delivering us from our mistakes, inviting us to live.

- 1 We love your realm, O God, all places where you reign.
We recognize, with hope and joy, the world as your domain.
2. We love your church, O od, for Christ has given life
To form communities of love that seek to heal our strife.
3. We recognize, with pain, that we have not achieved
The faithfulness of our resolve when we at first believed.
4. Yet Christ, our friend and guide, continues to forgive,
Delivering us from our mistakes, inviting us to live.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)

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.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 OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

OFFERTORY

Canticle of the Sun — Marty Haugen

*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

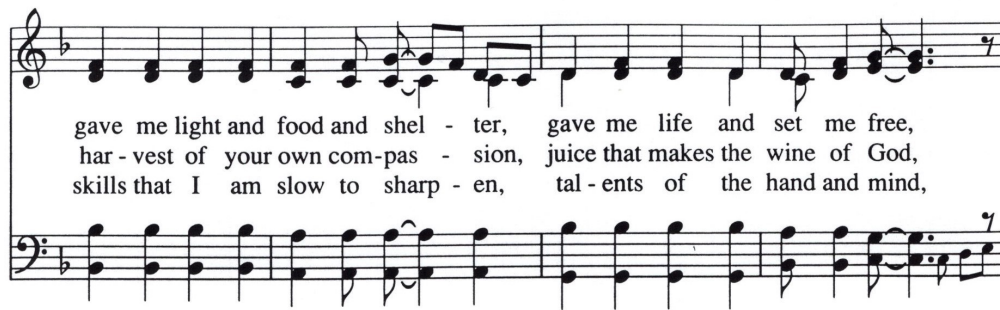
**Generous God, Giver of every gift, we dedicate these offerings to your service.
May they become a blessing to Creation and to all your children. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

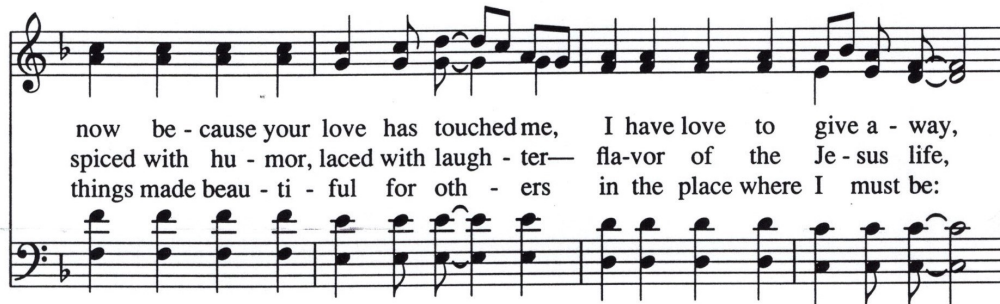
Take My Gifts — Black Hymnal 562



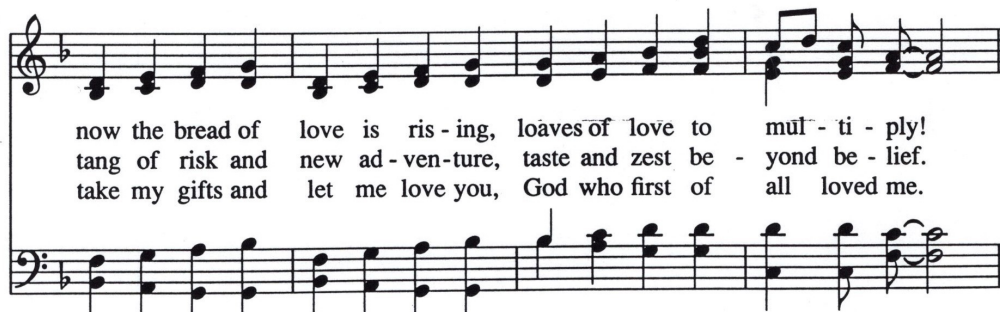
1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir-it sowed,
3 Take what-ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,



gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,



now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:



now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mūl - ti - ply!
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

1 Take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of all loved me, gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free. Now because Your love has touched me, I have love to give away, now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply.

2 Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree Your Spirit sowed, harvest of Your own compassion, juice that makes the wine of God, spiced with humor, laced with laughter-- flavor of the Jesus life, tang of risk and new adventure, taste and zest beyond belief.

3 Take whatever I can offer-- gifts that I have yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharpen, talents of the hand and mind, things made beautiful for others in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love You, God who first of all loved me.

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Alex Shea Will

POSTLUDE

Prelude in G — JS Bach

Please join us for social time after worship.

**THANK YOU TO OUR GREETER, BOB BECKWITH, OUR
SPEAKER, ISABELLA STEVENS AND OUR ZOOM HOSTS,
MADELEINE CLARK, ACADIA ZORN AND LUCA ZORN.**

**Please be in a posture of praise.*

***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.*

UPCOMING EVENTS



9/29 Pickup Choir 9:45 A.M. in the Sanctuary

9/29 Worship & Sunday School at 10:30 A.M.

Congregational Meeting after worship & a Pilgrim Field

Trip to the [Lex250 Countdown Clock!](#)

10/5 The Pumpkins Arrive! 9:00 A.M.

NOTICE OF MEETING

September 29, 2024

To all Pilgrim Church Members and Friends,

Pursuant to our Bylaws, you are invited to a Special Meeting of the congregation on Sunday September 29 at 11:30 A.M. or earlier, after the Worship Service.

Agenda:

The following changes to administration of the Beckwith Fund (“Fund”) were requested by the only living children of Ellison F. Beckwith, the original donor of the Fund, to more accurately reflect their father’s intent to support Pilgrim Congregational Church (“Church”). These changes were approved by the Church Council on May 21, 2024, and the Council now seeks Congregational approval.

Specifically, the Fund is proposed to be administered as follows:

1. The principal portion of the Fund, currently named the Beckwith (Principal) Fund, be classified as a Long-Term Investment as that term is defined in the Long-Term Investment Policy of Pilgrim Congregational Church as approved by Church Council on March 21, 2011;
2. All dividends and interest generated by the Beckwith (Principal) Fund shall be transferred to the Beckwith (Income) Fund on a monthly basis;
3. At the end of every calendar year, the current valuation of the Beckwith (Principal) Fund will be compared to a starting balance of \$500,000. If the end-of-year valuation exceeds \$500,000, 25% of the difference is to be transferred to the Beckwith (Income) Fund;
4. The Beckwith (Income) Fund’s primary focus is the Church music program. To that end, the

priority for spending shall be the music budget as developed by the Worship Committee in consultation with the Director of Music. Said budget would be used to cover items including, but not limited to, guest performers, tuning and repair of the organ and pianos, sheet music, licensing fees, and equipment such as music stands, instruments, and piano benches;

5. At the end of the program year (August 30), if there is money in the Beckwith (Income) Fund after accounting for the music budget, the remaining money could be used for any purpose approved by the Church Council;

6. These administrative processes will take effect retroactive to December 31, 2023; and

7. According to Ellison Beckwith's original request, in the event that the Church should be dissolved or liquidated, or the Church for any reason is unable to make use of the Beckwith Fund, the principal and the unexpended income and interest shall be given to the Andover-Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut. If Andover-Newton is not operating as a theological seminary, then all proceeds, income, and interest shall go to a Protestant theological educational institution selected by the Church.

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,

Donald Moir, Clerk

