



PILGRIM
Congregational Church



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Today's service will be recorded.

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – 9/29/2024

Worship Sunday, September 29, 2024

PRELUDE

In the Church — Gabriel Vierne

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Inspired by Psalm 19)

ONE: Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, Holy One, our rock and redeemer.

ALL: For we seek your presence, the company of this community, and the renewal of our minds and spirits.

ONE: Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, Holy One, our rock and redeemer.

ALL: For you impart wisdom, inspire joy, and instill hope as we reflect on the past, live in the present, and consider the future.

ONE: Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you, Holy One, our rock and redeemer.

ALL: For wherever we gather in your name, we find holy ground; whenever we call you, we find a fresh encounter; however we know you, we find belonging. Praise God!

*OPENING HYMN

459

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing— Black Hymnal 459

Ps. 36:7-9

Robert Robinson, 1758; alt.

1 Come, O Fount of ev-ery bless-ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
2 Here I pause in my so - journ-ing, giv-ing thanks for hav-ing come,
3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!

streams of mer - cy, nev-er ceas - ing, call for songs of end-less praise.
come to trust, at ev-ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe-ly home.
Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan-dering heart to you.

Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by flam-ing tongues a - bove.
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-dering from the fold of God,
Prone to wan - der, I can feel it, wan-der from the love I've known:

Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail-ing love.
Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless-ed bod - y, pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

1 Come, O Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love!

2 Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
Here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for your very own.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, as we listen to the story of people of faith in ancient days open our hearts and minds to understand what is contained therein. Once again send your Spirit so that, hearing your words calling out to your beloved, we may be inspired to works of love and justice in your name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING James 5:13-20

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth yielded its harvest. ¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Shall We Gather At The River — Craig Courtney
Pilgrim Pickup Choir

Children and Youth are invited to participate in Sunday School at this time.

SERMON

Rev. Reebee Girash

*RESPONSE HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

66

Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, all.

DIX 7.7.7.7.7.
Abridged from a chorale by
Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth-er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,

Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A-men.

5 For each perfect gift of thine
Unto us so freely given,
Graces, human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

6 For thy Church that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love,

For the Beauty of the Earth — Red Hymnal 66

1 For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
This, our hymn of grateful praise. Amen

2 For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light, [Refrain]

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight, [Refrain]

4 For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild, [Refrain]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

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

Creation's Hallelujah — 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

Creator God, make these gifts holy for your kindom.it be so on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Part in Peace

78

Sarah Flower Adams (1805-1848); alt.

Unison

The musical score is written for unison in 3/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The lyrics are printed between the staves. The first system contains the first three lines of lyrics, and the second system contains the next three lines. The music is a simple, hymn-like melody with chords.

1 Part in peace! the day be - fore us, prais - es sing for life and light.
2 Part in peace! with deep thanks-giv-ing, ren - dering as we home-ward tread,
3 Part in peace! our voic - es rais-ing, in God's pres - ence al - ways be.

Are the shad - ows length - ening o'er us? Bless God's care who guards the night.
Love and ser - vice to the liv - ing, gen - tle mem - ory to the dead.
This the wor - ship and the prais-ing, bring - ing peace to you and me.

1 Part in peace! the day before us, praises sing for life and light.
Are the shadows lengthening o'er us? Bless God's care who guards the night.

2 Part in peace! with deep thanksgiving, rendering as we homeward tread,
Love and service to the living, gentle memory to the dead.

3 Part in peace! our voices raising, in God's presence always be.
This the worship and the praising, bringing peace to you and me.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in C — JS Bach

Please join us for social time after worship.

**THANK YOU TO OUR GREETER, BOB
BECKWITH, AND OUR ZOOM HOSTS,
MICHAEL STEVENS AND DEV AMARAVADI .**

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/29 Congregational Meeting after worship & a Pilgrim Field Trip to the

[Lex250Countdown Clock!](#)

9/29 Apple Picking Trip (all ages: Kids & Adults!)

10/3 Pilgrim Choir rehearsal 7:30 P.M. in Pilgrim Hall

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

10/6 Worship Service 10:30 A.M. (Pilgrim Choir 10:00 A.M. call in the Sanctuary).

**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.*

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



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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