



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)

**Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ**
Worship Sunday — September 8, 2024

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- ❖ **PRELUDE:** Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing — Joel Raney
- ❖ **OPENING HYMN:** Morning Has Broken
- ❖ **ANTHEM:** For The Beauty Of The Earth — John Rutter
- ❖ **HYMN:** Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed*
- ❖ **OFFERTORY:** The God of Jacob Hallelujah — Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
- ❖ **PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** Let Us Talents*
- ❖ **CLOSING HYMN:** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
- ❖ **POSTLUDE:** Prelude & Fugue in C — JS Bach

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Today's service will be recorded.

Welcome Sunday, September 8, 2024

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing — Joel Raney

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Jeff Boehm

ONE: Peace be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 146, adapted

Jeff Boehm

ONE: Hallelujah!

ALL: Hallelujah!

ONE: Praise God! Praise God, O my soul!

LEFT: We will praise God as long as we live;

RIGHT: We will sing praises to our God all our whole life long.

LEFT: Happy are those whose help is in God

RIGHT: Who made heaven and earth,

LEFT: the sea, and all that is in them;

RIGHT: God, who keeps faith forever;

LEFT: who executes justice for the oppressed;

RIGHT: who gives food to the hungry.

LEFT: who sets the prisoners free;

ONE: Praise God who watches over the strangers; who upholds the orphan and the widow

MANY: God will reign forever. Praise God!

ALL: Hallelujah!

GATHERING BEAUTY

Rev. Reebee Girash

*OPENING HYMN

Morning Has Broken — Red Hymnal 38
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PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Jeff Boehm

God of the Garden, we celebrate all living things today: from forest to field, from sea to sky. Help us to see your presence, not only in human history but also in the stories of our kin throughout creation. Teach us to hear the good news of your loving care ringing through creation. In the name of Christ who fills heaven and Earth, we pray. Amen.

Morning Has Broken

38

Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-

BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4.D.

Gaelic Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948

In unison

1 Morn-ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the

spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing!
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion,

Praise for the morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!
Of the wet gar - den, Sprung in com-plete - ness Where his feet pass.
Praise ev - ery morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new day!

1 Morning has broken Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken Like the first bird.

Praise for the singing! Praise for the
morning!

Praise for them, springing Fresh from the
Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall Sunlit from
heaven,

Like the first dewfall On the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness Where his feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's recreation Of the new day!

SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:1-9, 14-17

Jeff Boehm

My siblings, do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory while showing partiality. ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here in a good place, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit by my footstool,” ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵Listen, my beloved family. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

⁶But you have dishonored the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into the courts? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? ⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well.

⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food ¹⁶and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

For The Beauty Of The Earth — John Rutter
Pilgrim Choir

MEDITATION

Rev. Reebee Girash

INTERGENERATIONAL

*HYMN

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed — Black Hymnal 537

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

OFFERTORY

The God of Jacob 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**

Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed

537

Francis Albert Rollo Russell, 1893; alt.

1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your
2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can
3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's
4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that

prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the
help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing
wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble
doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of

true, raise your work and life a - new.
light, strength - en them to do the right.
zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.
fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

The musical score consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

Francis Albert Rollo Russell was a writer on scientific subjects and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society. This hymn was first published in the Pilgrim Hymnal (1904). The tune originated with a text used for the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Tune: INNOCENTS 7.7.7.7.
The Parish Choir, 1850

1 Christian, rise and act your creed;
let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
raise your work and life anew.

2 Hearts around you sink with care;
you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light,
strengthen them to do the right.

3 Offer others hope and joy,
and God's worship your employ;
Giving thanks in humble zeal,
learning all God's will to feel.

4 Come then, law divine, and reign:
faith that doubt assails in vain,
Perfect love bereft of fear,
born in heaven and radiant here.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

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

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

Let Us Talents — Black Hymnal 347
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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 TO COMMUNION

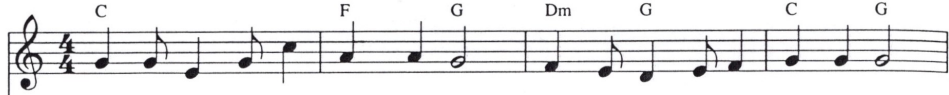
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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 kindom of love and justice.

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!



Refrain (first time p, second time f)



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!



1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
 reaching out with a shout of joy:

bread is broken, the wine is poured,
 Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain:

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
 pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
 pass the Word around: loaves abound!

2 Christ is able to make us one,
 at his table he set the tone,

teaching people to live to bless,
 love in word and in deed express.

[Refrain]

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
 bearing fruit in a world of doubt,

gives us love to tell, bread to share:
 God (Immanuel) everywhere!

[Refrain]

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. 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

COMMUNION MUSIC

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank you O God, for refreshing us at your holy table. We thank you for this good earth and for our kin in this community and around the world. May we always be reminded to see the world through Christ's eyes, and to work for a time when all may share together at Your table. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee — Black Hymnal 4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee 8

Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
Arr. from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4 Mor-tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - men.

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

2 All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.

3 You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.

4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan.
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude & Fugue in C — JS Bach

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/8 Welcome Sunday! Intergenerational Worship at 10:30 a.m.

9/10 Bible Study Fall Start - 10:30 a.m.

9/12 Men's Coffee Fall Start - 10:00 a.m. (In person)

9/15 Worship & Sunday School Service Project at 10:30 a.m.;

Potluck Picnic after worship! Setup help needed - talk to Pastor Reebee.

(For the potluck, Surnames A-M bring something savory; Surnames N-Z bring something sweet; drinks, plates and napkins provided. And there's always enough at a potluck so don't worry if you forget.)

9/20 Crafternoon Fall Start - 3:00 p.m. (In person)

9/22 Worship & Sunday School at 10:30 a.m.

Guest Preacher Rev. Alex Shea Will

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.

10/19 Apple Pie Fest

**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.*

THANK YOU TO OUR GREETER, BOB BECKWITH, OUR LITURGIST, JEFF BOEHM AND OUR ZOOM HOSTS, NICK ZORN AND MIKE STEVENS.



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