

**Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
December 8, 2024
Second Sunday of Advent**

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♪ PRELUDE: Wachet Auf — JS Bach

♪ GATHERING NYMN: Come, Come Emmanuel

♪ OPENING HYMN: O Come All Ye Faithful

♪ ANTHEM: Come O Come Emmanuel — Stan Pethel

♪ RESPONSE HYMN: My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise*

♪ OFFERTORY: Carol of the Bells — Myanna and Casia Harvey

♪ CLOSING HYMN: Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

♪ POSTLUDE: Trumpet Tune on 'Wachet Auf'

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Today's service will be recorded.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 2024

PRELUDE

Wachet Auf — JS Bach

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.

*GATHERING HYMN

Come, Come Emmanuel

“Come, Come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel!”

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: In a world that is lonely,

ALL: We will save a seat for you.

ONE: In a world that is anxious,

ALL: We will light candles against the gloom.

ONE: In a world that is weary,

ALL: We will sing songs of joy and truth.

ONE: I am not alone.

ALL: We are not alone.

ONE: For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

ALL: Light the candles! Sing with joy!

ONE: We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

ONE: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?

Where do we start?

ALL: Let us begin together.

Let us begin arm in arm.

Let us begin by holding each other up,

instead of tearing each other down.

Let us begin with words of peace.

ONE: Yes, let us begin with peace.

Today we light the candles of hope and peace.

ALL: May these lights remind us of what could be.

May these lights mark a new beginning.

May peace flow like a river,

and may it start with us.

ONE: Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side.

May we begin again. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful — Red Hymnal 132

132

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin: John F. Wade, 1711-1786
Tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, and others

ADESTE FIDELES Irregular
John F. Wade's "Cantus Diversi," 1751

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
3 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 4/4 time and G major. The treble staff contains the vocal melody, and the bass staff contains the bass line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with line numbers 1 through 4 on the left.

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
We would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff in 4/4 time and G major. The treble staff shows the vocal melody with a repeat sign at the end, and the bass staff shows the bass line. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord! A-men.

*Children are invited to participate in Sunday School at this time.
Please meet Sarah Jane and Izzy at the rear of the Sanctuary.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God,

The words of this world whip around us like a mighty wind.

**We are caught up in news reports,
in text messages, in emails and notifications.**

**We are drowning in updates from the media,
caught off guard by the constant hum of it all.**

**But here on this bright morning we remember:
you too are speaking.**

Still the voices around us.

**Calm our minds and center our hearts
so that we can hear your words above the wind.**

We are leaning closer.

We are at the edge of our chairs.

We are beginning again.

Speak to us, as only you can. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Come O Come Emmanuel — Stan Pethel

SERMON

Rev. Reebee Girash

RESPONSE HYMN

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise — Black Hymnal 106

A D A/E E7 A

1 My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me,
 2 The arm of God is strong and just to scat - ter all the proud.
 3 The prom - ise made in a - ges past at last has come to be,

A D A/E E7 A

Who came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny.
 The ty - rants tum - ble from their thrones and van - ish like a cloud.
 for God has come in power to save, to set all peo - ple free.

E A D E7 A E

The Ho - ly One, the Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace
 The hun - gry all are sat - is - fied; the rich are sent a - way.
 Re - mem - bering those who wait to see sal - va - tion's dawn - ing day,

A D A/E E7 A

To those who seek their Mak - er's will in ev - ery time and place.
 The poor of earth who suf - fer long will wel - come God's new day.
 Our Sav - ior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears a - way.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

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.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

Carol of the Bells — Myanna and Casia Harvey
(Nancy and Dan)

*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

Rev. Reebee Girash

**Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth - giver of justice,
lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor.**

Your faithfulness never fails.

Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates — Red Hymnal 114
next pages

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on 'Wachet Auf'

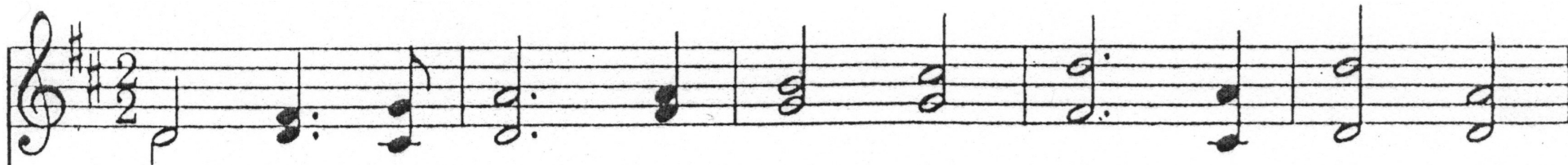
Please join us for social time after worship.

**Please be in a posture of praise.*

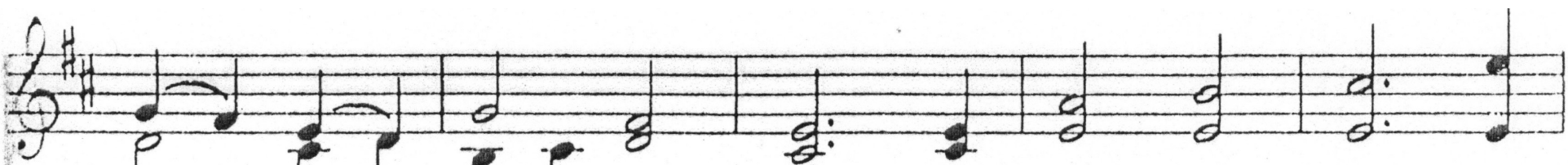
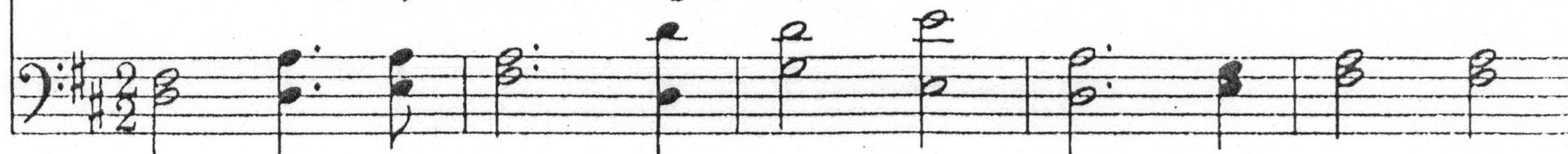
Please note: The video of this service is posted online. If you prefer not to be filmed, please sit near the rear of the sanctuary.

Thank you to our Liturgist, Deborah Burger our Zoom host, Doug Johnston, our Social Hosts, the Moffit Clark Family, and to the deMagistris Family for lighting the advent

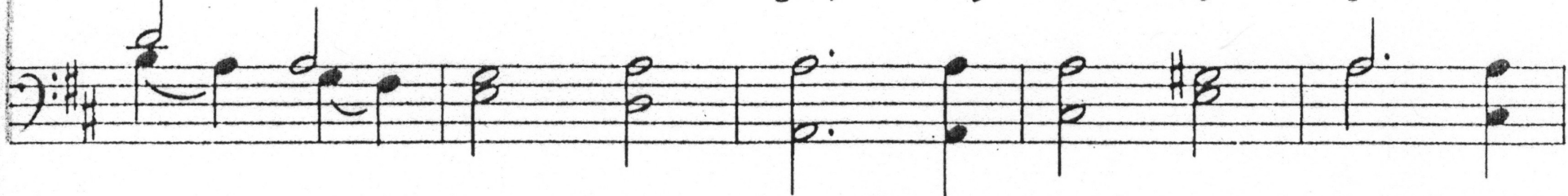
SOURCE NOTES *The Prayer of Dedication is from the Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. Other Prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC| sanctifiedart.org.- Words for the Beginning Advent Series.*

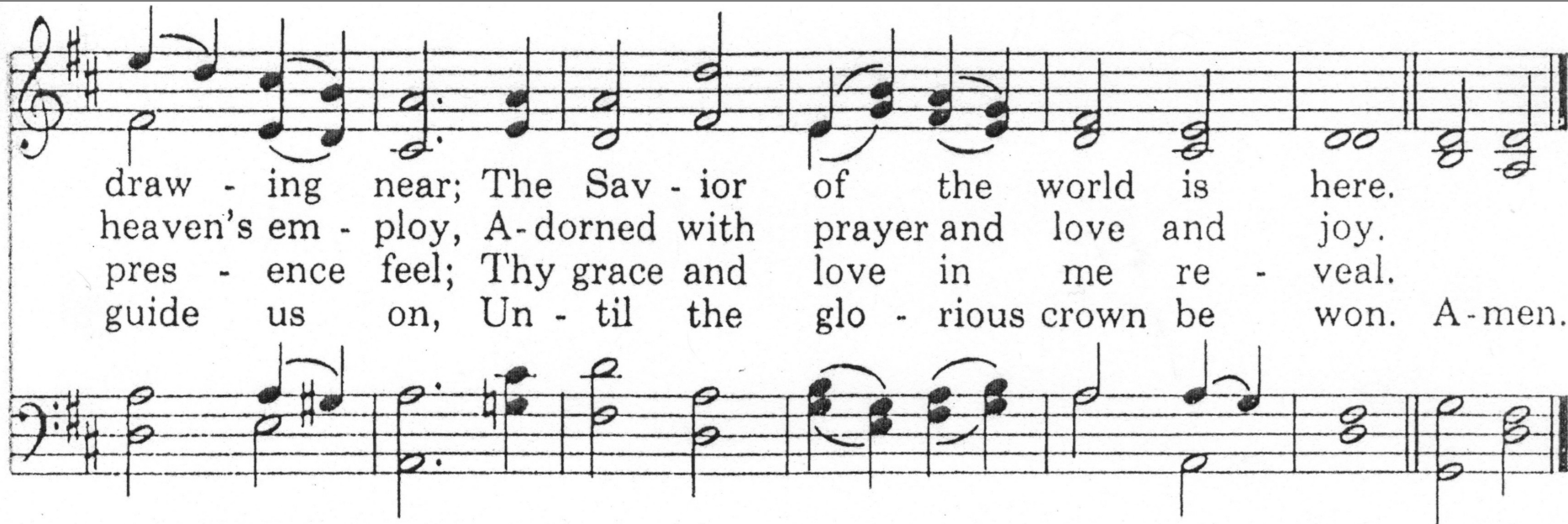


1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; Be - hold the
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide My heart to
4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and



King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
tem - ple, set a - part From earth - ly use for
thee; here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner
no - bler life be - gin; Thy Ho - ly Spir - it





draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, A-dorned with prayer and love and joy.
pres - ence feel; Thy grace and love in me re - veal.
guide us on, Un - til the glo - rious crown be won. A-men.

2024 ADVENT AT PILGRIM CHURCH

12/1 - 12/22 Advent Services 10:30AM*

12/8 Carols & Cocoa 3:30PM

12/15 Pageant Sunday 10:30AM* With special choir music (Christmas Party to Follow)

12/21 Longest Night (Zoom, 6:00PM; In Person, 7:00PM)

12/24 Christmas Eve worship 6:00PM*

12/29 Hymn Sing 10:30AM*



Pilgrim Church Staff

Pastor — Rev. Reebee Kavich Girash

Music Director — Dot Bowe

Choir Director — Max Evrard

Educational Ministries Director — Sarah Jane Fuller

Office Administrator — Kim Provo

Nursery Care Provider — April Chung

Sunday School Coordinator — Izzy Leginski

Church Sexton — Romeo Alves

