



**Pilgrim Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ
Worship Sunday — October 26, 2025**

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- † PRELUDE: Toccata in D minor
— JS Bach
- † GATHERING SONG: This is the Day*
- † OPENING HYMN: A Mighty Fortress Is
Our God*
- † ANTHEM: It Is Well With My Soul
— Horatio G. Spafford/Philip P. Bliss
(arr. Dan Kreider)
- † HYMN: Not My Brother, nor My Sister
(Standing in the Need of Prayer)*
- † OFFERTORY: Gather Us In
— Marty Haugen
- † CLOSING HYMN: We Are Not Our
Own*

*From The New Century Hymnal, Copyright 1995.

Today's service will be recorded.

WORSHIP – OCTOBER 26, 2025

PRELUDE

Toccata in D minor — JS Bach

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Steve Van Evera

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

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

*GATHERING SONG

This is the Day — New Century Hymnal 84

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Steve Van Evera

ONE: God's steadfast love endures forever.

ALL: God redeems us from trouble,

ONE: Gathering us from east and from the west,

ALL: From the north and from the south.

ONE: God led our ancestors from the wilderness, through the Jordan to a new land.

ALL: We say thanks for God's steadfast love

ONE: And God's wonderful works to humankind.

ALL: We worship God with thanks and praise.

OPENING PRAYER

Still Speaking God, you promise your presence in trial and rejoicing.

We pray that we may receive your spirit in this worship time, and in all of our days.

Keep us open to your movement as it comes in expected and in surprising ways. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God— New Century Hymnal 439
(pages 4-5)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 18:9-14

Steve Van Evera

⁹Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

ALL: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

It Is Well With My Soul — Horatio G. Spafford/Philip P. Bliss
(arr. Dan Kreider)

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

SERMON

Rev. Reebee Girash

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

439

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Ps. 46

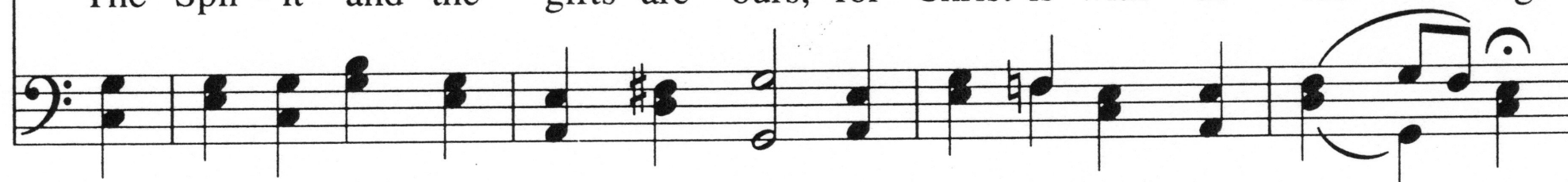
Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981

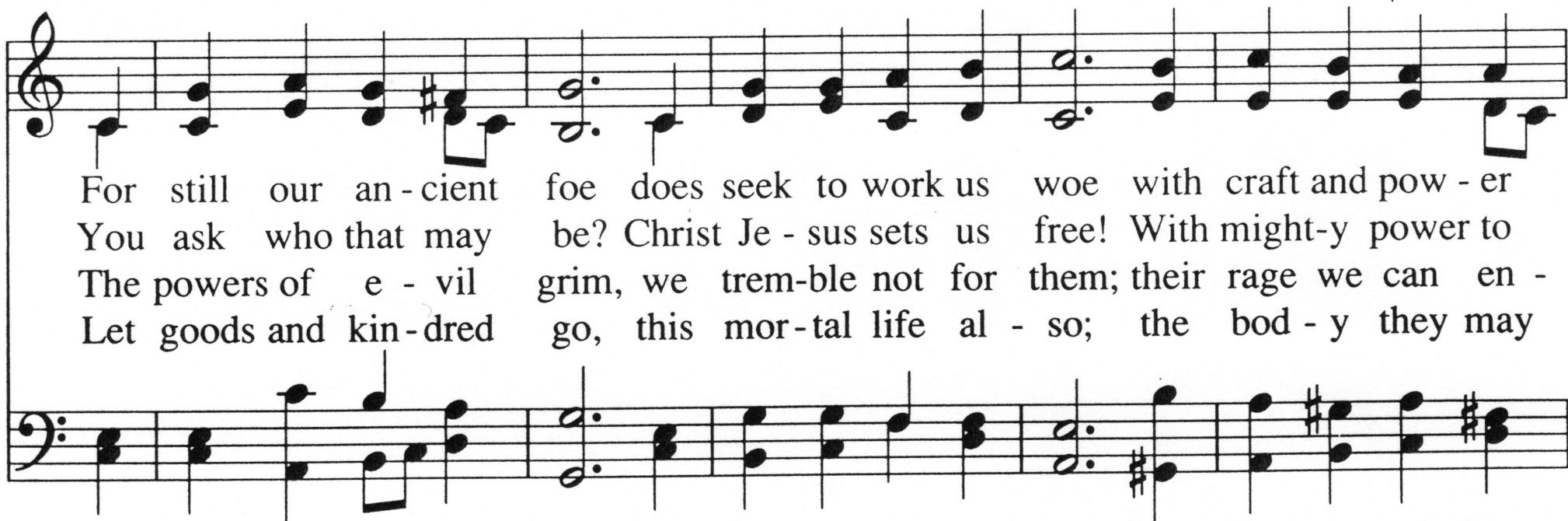


1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;

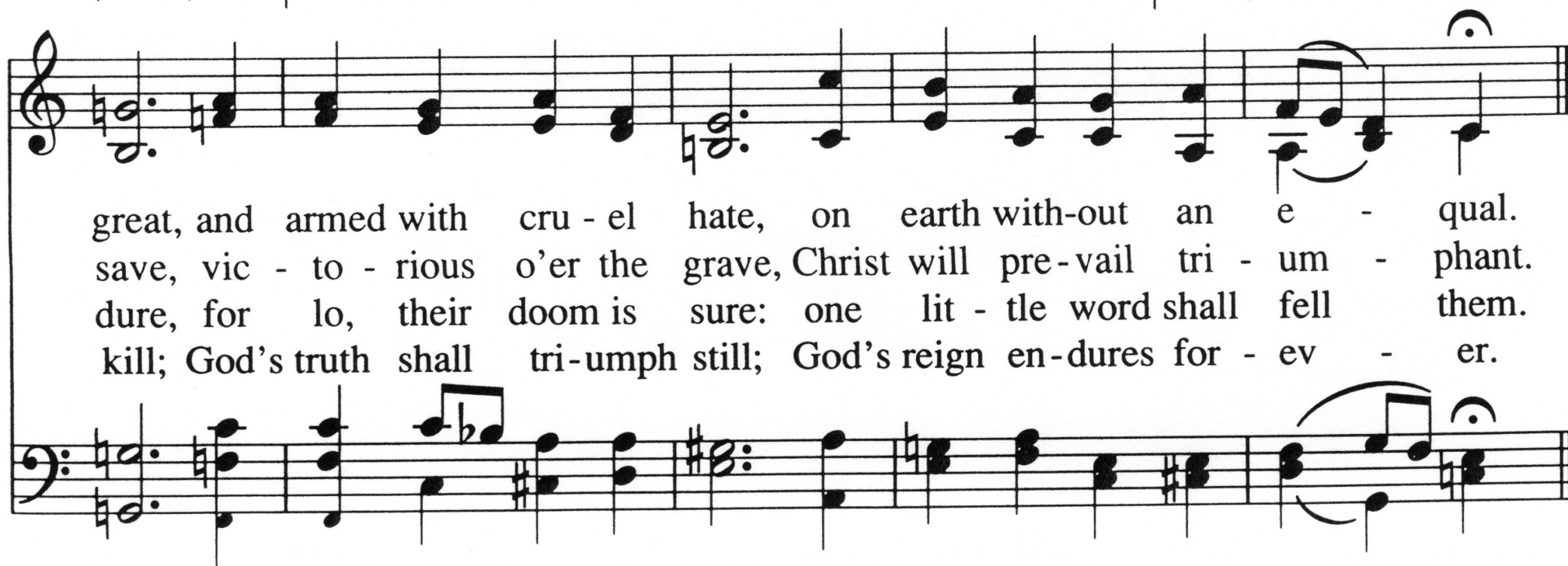


Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos - ing.
We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.





For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
 You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus sets us free! With might-y power to
 The powers of e - vil grim, we trem-ble not for them; their rage we can en -
 Let goods and kin-dred go, this mor-tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with-out an e - qual.
 save, vic - to - rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre-vail tri - um - phant.
 dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
 kill; God's truth shall tri-umph still; God's reign en-dures for - ev - er.

*HYMN

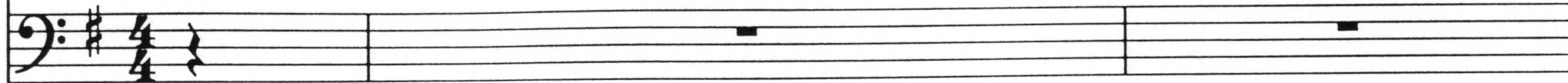
Not My Brother, nor My Sister (Standing in the Need of Prayer)

New Century Hymnal 519

Leader



1 Not my broth - er, nor my sis - ter, but it's me, O God,
2 Not the preach-er, nor the dea - con, but it's me, O God,
3 Not my fa - ther, nor my moth - er, but it's me, O God,
4 Not the strang-er, nor my neigh-bor, but it's me, O God,



All

Leader



stand-ing in the need of prayer; Not my broth - er, nor my sis - ter, but it's
stand-ing in the need of prayer; Not the preach-er, nor the dea - con, but it's
stand-ing in the need of prayer; Not my fa - ther, nor my moth - er, but it's
stand-ing in the need of prayer; Not the strang-er, nor my neigh-bor, but it's



All *Refrain*

me, O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer. It's
 me, O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer.
 me, O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer.
 me, O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer.

me, it's me, O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer;
 it's me,

It's me, it's me, O God, stand-ing in the need of prayer.
 it's me,

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 kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

OFFERTORY

Gather Us In — Marty Haugen

*DOXOLOGY

Pilgrim 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.

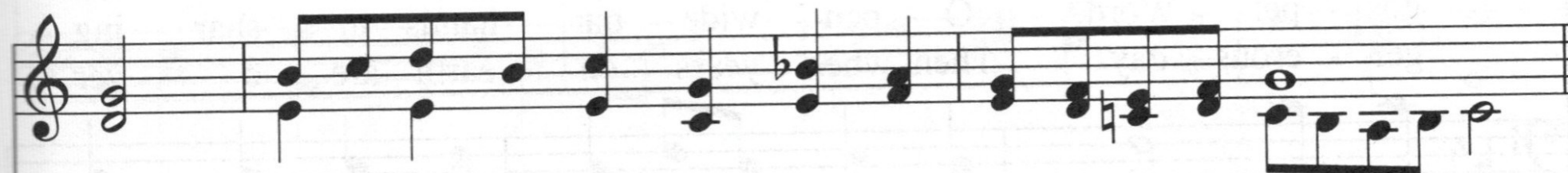
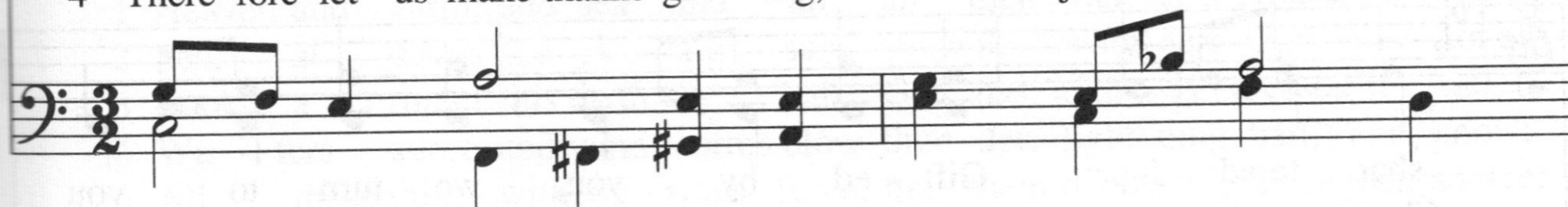
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy God, you call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory. As we return to you a portion of what you have given us in blessing, we offer these gifts and our lives to your service. Amen.



1 We are not our own. Earth forms us, hu-man leaves on na-ture's grow-ing
 2 We are not a-lone. Earth names us: past and pres-ent, peo-ples near and
 3 Through a hu-man life God finds us; dy-ing, liv-ing, love is ful-ly
 4 There-fore let us make thanks-giv-ing, and with jus-tice, will-ing and a-



vine, Fruit of man-y gen-er-a-tions, seeds of life di-vine.
 far, fam-i-ly and friends and strang-ers show us who we are.
 known, and in bread and wine re-minds us: we are not our own.
 ware, give to earth, and all things liv-ing, lit-ur-gies of care.



*BENEDICTION

Rev. Reebee Girash

FIRE DRILL

**Please be in a posture of praise.*

Thank you to our greeter Filippo deMagistris, our Liturgist, Steve Van Evera, our coffee hour hosts, the Morrison's, and our Zoom hosts Mia M. and Dev A.

SOURCE NOTES

The Liturgy today is by Rev. Ruth Garwood of Cleveland, Ohio, from a Reformation Sunday Liturgy of the United Church of Christ Worship Ways materials. Cover image by Liz Mackie.

NEW UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday — December 1, 7:00 PM

Mindful Moments: Reflecting on the season in song and prayer

Sunday — December 7, 2:00 PM

An Afternoon of Carols and Christmas Organ Music

Sunday — December 21, 7:00 PM

Service of the Longest Night



Online Donation link



STATEMENT OF WELCOME

We honor the Biblical call to love one another as God first loved us.
We welcome into the full life and ministry of the church all people of any race,
nationality, religious background, educational background, ethnicity,
age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, economic status,
and physical, mental, and emotional abilities.



MISSION STATEMENT

*A welcoming home to all spiritual seekers Making a difference in our world,
By fusing our Christian faith with everyday life and Serving God by serving others.*



CHILDREN AT PILGRIM

Children are a beloved part of our worshiping community,
and we welcome them as full participants in God's presence,
helping them feel at home at Pilgrim.

Professional childcare for infants and toddlers
is available in the nursery from 10:15 to the end of the service.

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.*



VISUAL AND HEARING AIDS

Hearing devices may be picked up from the table in the narthex.
Large Print bulletins and Sermons texts are available.

PILGRIM CHURCH OFFICERS

Moderator – Elizabeth Chen (Moderator@PilgrimCongregational.org)

Vice Moderator – Doug Johnston

Clerk – Don Moir

Treasurer – Dave McClave

PILGRIM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Care – Marge Saradjian

Communications – Lisa Boehm

Educational Ministries – Lesley Morrison

Finance & Administration – Rotating Chair

Investment – Dave McClave

Mission – Doug Johnston

Pastoral Relations – Susan Moffitt, Alexis Stevens,
Duncan Todd

Stewardship – David Nuss

Worship – Stephanie Shore