

Pilgrim's Progress

December 4, 2019 - Vol. 60 No. 12



Incarnate: A Reflection

In response to my note in last month's Pilgrim's Progress, one of our members offered this reflection on the word Incarnate. They asked to remain anonymous, but what a reflection! I'm glad to share it.

You invited us to reflect on the word Incarnate.

According to Merriam-Webster, the adjective INCARNATE refers to a spirit embodied in flesh in human form. Christians believe that Jesus is God in human form.

So if you want to know more about what God values, more about who God is you need to first understand who Jesus was and what Jesus valued.

According to the Bible who was Jesus?

- *A person who was not judgmental*
- *A person who was loving and welcoming to all, even tax collectors, non-Jews, and children.*
- *A person who was not concerned with the beauty of the temple*
- *A person who prayed fervently*
- *A person who did not whine and worry*
- *A person who had an amazing ability to heal people*
- *A person who concentrated on helping those most in need*
- *A person who advised people not to look for revenge but to turn the other cheek.*
- *A person who was generous and did not worry about where the next meal was coming from*

I may have missed something but you all can fill it in. Through Him I have come to believe that MIRACLES DO EXIST.

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A Writing Prompt for Next Month:

Send Pastor Reebee your poem, painting, or paragraph (250 words or less) on the word SHINE - in honor of the Epiphany Season and the Star the Magi followed.

~Pastor Reebee





Advent Resources for your Spiritual Journey

In the season of Advent, there are wonderful resources available to us as we walk this beautiful spiritual journey. Here are five suggestions from Pastor Reebee. (No, don't try to do all five!)

For podcast fans with a progressive, justice oriented faith: Be Still and Go. It's only available during special seasons, including Advent.

<https://www.trcnyc.org/bestillandgo/>

Second in our list: For fans of paper devotionals, Pastor Reebee suggests this book, out this year. Keep Watch with Me: An Advent Reader for Peacemakers by Michael McRay and Claire Brown. (Also available as an e-book)

<https://www.indiebound.org/book/9781501876332>

Third up: A Podcast for children. We Wonder, Advent. Following the general format of the Jesse Tree and tracing Jesus' heritage, with contemplative meditations designed for kids. <https://www.wewonderpod.com/>

Fourth, we are offering to anyone in our congregation an Advent Activities calendar from Traci Smith. You can download it [here](#), or pick one up on Sunday. (Please do not forward this link to others - we only bought a license for our congregation.)

And lastly, a Jesse Tree for Pilgrim Church. Pastor Reebee will be sharing this tradition from her childhood with the congregation this Sunday. Come and get your copy - we have plenty!

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Parking Request

Here's a request that gives me joy to make. There aren't quite enough close-by parking spaces for everyone coming to worship. What??? Yes indeed, we've had overcrowded parking conditions this fall. If your FitBit is asking you to take more steps, or if you like the view into the woods at the side/back parking, would you consider parking further from the front of the church so that Visitors (many expected in December!), late arrivals, and folks with limited mobility can park in front of the church? Thanks!



City Mission's Christmas Shop

City Mission Boston's Christmas Shop once again celebrates its partnerships with more than 40 local churches, businesses and individuals who give gifts from the heart to honor the birth of Jesus Christ and to help families and children in need. In 2018, over 5,200 items were distributed in the Greater Boston Metropolitan area.

Gift Suggestions:

We accept only **NEW** items. These are listed by priority:

- Winter coats, sweaters and sweatshirts (large sizes especially)
- Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves
- Socks, underwear, bras and thermals
- Gift cards from Target, Marshalls, Walgreens, CVS, Kohl's, Walmart, Stop & Shop, Shaw's and other merchants in the Boston area
- Toys (culturally relevant dolls), games, and books for all ages

City Mission Identifies Families in Need

City Mission identifies the need of families within City Mission programs and partnerships. Together we assess the needs of the Boston community and identify persons in need of holiday assistance.

Partner Churches Donate Needed Items

NEW clothing, toys and other items including store gift cards come from over 40 churches, groups and organizations. They are purchased or hand-made by individuals and families who believe that Christmas is an important time to share hope, joy and love with others.

Volunteers Sort and Pack Gifts for Their Neighbors

Thousands of items are delivered to the Christmas Shop, hosted at First Church in Winchester. They are sorted and packed for distribution by volunteers from church youth groups, adult fellowships and others.

Pilgrim Church will receive items through December 15

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City Mission Christmas Shop Service Trip

Open to Middle & High School Youth! We're preparing for a great service trip to City Mission Boston's Christmas Shop (in Winchester) on December 15. This trip is open to Middle and High School Youth, and Youth are welcome to invite a friend. Please let Pastor Reebee know if your youth plan to come and she will send you a permission slip!

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT

Pilgrim Church

Giving Opportunities ✨

East End House Mitten Tree

December 8

Bring new hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens to decorate Pilgrim's Mitten Trees! Bring warmth to our neighbors in Cambridge through East End House.

City Mission Boston Gifts

December 15

Bring the spirit of Christmas to Boston families in need. Select a colorful gift tag from the Sun Room Tree. Purchase new items or gift cards and place under tree by December 15. **Pilgrim Youth Service Trip** will deliver as well as help sort and pack items for distribution.

UCC Christmas Fund

December 21 and 22

Collection taken during these two services to provide critical financial support to retired UCC clergy and lay leaders.

Christmas Eve Offering

December 24

This offering provides gifts for Shriners Hospitals for Children patients and funds the restoration of a large garden at a children's home through Cambodian Cocoon.

Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, Lexington - 55 Coolidge Avenue
www.pilgrimcongregational.org

☮ Fully accessible, and welcoming all.  

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT

Pilgrim Church

Worship Calendar ✨

Advent Services

December 1, 8, 15 and 22, 10:30 AM

Celebrate Advent Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.
Hear Christmas stories from around the globe. ✨

Longest Night

December 21 7:00 PM

Contemplative service for those who struggle at this time
of year. Reflection on the promise of "God is with us."

Christmas Eve Pageant

December 24, 6:00 PM

The community is invited to celebrate Jesus' birth and
welcome in Christmas with Pilgrim's All Ages Pageant, rich
with performed narration and many beloved hymns.
Cookies and conversation following the service.

Christmas Hymn Sing

December 29, 10:30 AM

Sing favorite carols and pray for peace,
light, and love in the coming year.

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LEXINGTON ARTS & CRAFTS SOCIETY
ANNUAL HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE

**Dec 4th
to Dec 23rd**

Open to the Public

Free Admission & Parking

Wednesdays – Saturdays: 10am to 6pm

Thursdays open late, shop until 8pm

Sundays: Noon to 6, Closed Mon & Tues

LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING DAY:

Monday, Dec 23, 10am to 6pm!

Beautiful handcrafted creations
made by local fine artists
& craftspeople

Find your perfect
original, one-of-a-kind gift!

Support local artists!

Lexington Arts & Crafts Society
130 Waltham Street, Lexington, MA 02421

781-862-9696

LexArt.org



Bible Study - Tuesdays at 10:30 am

All welcome to join anytime. Pick up a Bible Study packet in the Narthex and join us!



As you know, LexRAP has many wonderful opportunities to get involved and make a difference. Please go to their website at www.lexrap.org to check out the many possibilities. Thank you.

AmazonSmile

Hey Pilgrims:

Did you know that if you shop on Amazon (and who doesn't these days?!?) you can help Pilgrim earn through the AmazonSmile program? All you have to do is log in through AmazonSmile ([HERE](#)) and Amazon will donate .5% of eligible purchases to Pilgrim. When you are purchasing items, it will indicate if it is eligible for inclusion in the Amazon Smile program. If it is, great! If not, no worries. You don't have to do anything other than shop as you normally would.

Here is some information about the program:

How does AmazonSmile work?

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

Is there any cost to charitable organizations or to customers?

No. There is no cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

Thank you for considering shopping through AmazonSmile!

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Sign Up to Volunteer at Pilgrim!

To sign up to be a liturgist, greeter, coffee hour host or to volunteer with Pilgrim's Children's Church, please click [HERE](#). Thank you!

Recent Sermons

Please feel free to watch or read recent sermons on our website. [HERE](#) is the link to the most recent sermon.

Click [HERE](#) to access the Pilgrim Church Calendar.





UCC STILLSPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Not to Be Served, but to Serve

By: Vince Amlin

December 1, 2019

The trappings of national religion don't seem quite right for the sovereign we await, who arrives as a vulnerable child, who will die at the hands of the State.

Continue reading [HERE](#)