

Pilgrim's Progress

November 5, 2019 - Vol. 60 No. 11



Dear Pilgrims,

I'm taking suggestions and submissions for the cover letter at the beginning of Pilgrim's Progress each month. I will let you in on something: I find it very hard to come up with a topic each month to write on, something that is independent of my preaching themes, and independent of what I put in my Friday email. It is also the case that I wonder if I get too much airtime in Pilgrim's communications. A note in e-notes, a Friday email, a sermon, a pastoral prayer, a children's message, and a newsletter article - isn't that more than you want from one source? :)

So, here's my idea: if you send me a question that has any relevance to our common church life, I'll try to offer my response in a brief Pilgrim's Progress note. And if you send me a short piece that is of general interest to the congregation, I'll see if we have room in an upcoming edition.

I will take this a step further by offering a writing prompt. One of my favorite magazines, Christian Century, invites readers to reflect briefly on a word every few months. (Past examples: Dirt. Sabbath. Indulgence.) Those of you familiar with Kathleen Norris' writing may also recognize this format. So, I'll invite you to reflect for the December Pilgrim's Progress on the word INCARNATE which is a great word for the Advent season. 250 words or so, a poem or a brief paragraph or two would be lovely. I know we have writers and poets in our midst!

Blessings,

Pastor Reebee



Spiritual Formation Survey

We're planning Spiritual Formation gatherings for the winter and I'm curious to know what topics, and what times and platforms are of interest to you. [Please fill in this quick Survey - it will take you one minute!](#) Some great ideas have already come in through this process!

Memorial Gifts

In the October 20th Stewardship Moment, Susan Carabbio asked the congregation, "What does Pilgrim Church mean to you?" Many responded with heartfelt answers. During the stewardship season we thoughtfully consider our pledge to Pilgrim for the year to come. It's also a most fitting time to make a provision in your will to leave a lasting memorial gift, in your name, to Pilgrim Church. This will enable our beloved church to minister and serve for many years to come.

The Finance and Administration Committee is looking in to resources for this type of giving. Speak to Bob Beckwith if you're interested in learning more.

F&A Update on the Parsonage

The Finance and Administration Committee would like to thank the Kurth family for being wonderful house sitters at the parsonage. They will soon be moving, and as the congregation knows, our new pastor is maintaining her residence in Arlington. The house sitting model has worked well for the congregation over the last couple of years and it is our intention to consider a new house sitter for the parsonage for the time being, beginning sometime in early 2020. Please speak to a member of F&A if you have questions.

Bob Beckwith, for the Committee
rebeckwith@verizon.net

Fundraising Meeting - November 24

Please note that we will be having a fundraising meeting on November 24th immediately following the service. Please feel free to come with ideas and thoughts you might have!





**Save the Date:
Mitten Tree Sunday - December 8**

Get set for the holiday season! On Sunday, December 8 we will have our annual Mitten Tree Sunday. We collect new mittens, scarves and hats to donate to East End House. Please get your warm items ready to donate!



Notes from Dot

Some years ago, the children in my choir were having a difficult time waiting for Christmas. During Advent rehearsals we would chant together: "We're waiting... and waiting... and waiting ... and waiting.. soooo hurry, hurry, hurry up Christmas." While the Advent season feels endless to children, it now seems short to me, perhaps because I relish Advent music.

In addition to the traditional hymns, I love to play settings of two chorales. The first is Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, literally "Now come, savior of the heathens", but usually translated as "Savior of the nations, come". Martin Luther wrote the text in 1523 with the stanzas expressing the request for the coming of the redeemer of all people. He derived the melody from a Latin plainchant with adjustments for the original German language. His chorale setting was a prominent hymn on the first Sunday of Advent for centuries.

While JS Bach wrote three settings of this chorale, my favorite and the one I usually play during Advent is BWV 659. Like many Advent selections, it is somber yet not depressing. The steadiness of the walking bass in the pedal part evokes a comfortable feeling as it keeps on keeping on.

The other Advent chorale I enjoy playing is Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, or "Sleepers Awake". Philipp Nicolai wrote this hymn in 1598 and naturally Bach composed more than one setting. The entrance of the chorale in BWV 645 always feels a little jarring, making me think that the title really should be "WAKE UP!"

Instead of saying hurry up Christmas like the children, should I say "Hurry up Advent!?"

Dot Bowe

dot.bowe@pilgrimcongregational.org

Children & Youth Choir Rehearsals

Rehearsals for children and youth will be offered on the first three Sundays of November in preparation for the intergenerational service on November 24. We'll be working on the Taizé community hymn In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful. Taizé music emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from scripture repeated and sometimes sung in canon. This piece features an ostinato refrain, one that repeats persistently, over which we'll layer various and varying instrumental and vocal verses.

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A Note from Max

Hi Folks,

It's been a great start to the year here at Pilgrim. We have been singing in many different languages and styles and always with joy in our hearts. Our rehearsals are exciting (Wednesdays at 7:30 if you want to come, and you're always welcome!), and we look forward to doing exciting music every week. Our busiest season is coming up, so if you've been on the fence about joining, you'll get some great experience through November and Advent.

See you at coffee hour, and thanks for reading!

Sincerely,
Max

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High Street Concert Series – Featuring Elena Snow!

Pilgrim choir section leader Elena Snow, along with other New England Conservatory alumni, will be featured in a recital on **Friday, November 8 from 7:30 – 9:30 pm**. This will take place at High Street Concert Series, 58 Irving Street, Brookline, MA 02445. As part of the High Street Concert Series, the program features 3 of Robert Schumann's song cycles, rarely performed together. Tickets are available online at the link below, or alternatively: Pilgrim church members get 50% off at the door if they mention their name and church affiliation! All are welcome and hope to see you there!

Link here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/schumanns-three-great-song-cycles-tickets-77339563717>.

Join the Pageant Steering Committee Team!

Passionate about the Pilgrim Christmas Pageant? Want to be part of the team that helps organize this cherished Pilgrim tradition? Have some ideas you would like to share? All are welcome to the next Pageant Steering Committee meeting on **Sunday, November 10 after worship 11:45-12:30**. Grab a beverage and a snack from coffee hour and meet us upstairs. As of now, we will be meeting in Reebee's office. Please note: Serving on this year's Pageant Steering Committee does not commit you to serving on the committee in the future. Questions? Please email lisapboehm@gmail.com.

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Bible Study - Tuesdays at 10:30 am

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

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**Metropolitan Boston Association
UCC Fall Meeting**

Pastor Reebee invites you to join her in attending this gathering of the Metropolitan Boston Association, UCC.

Join the Metro Boston and Northeast Associations for their Fall Meeting on **November 17th at First Winchester (21 Church St.) at 3:00 p.m.**

The Metropolitan Boston and Northeast Associations will co-sponsor a joint gathering on November 17th with MBA Association Business at 3:00 p.m. and joint programming beginning at 3:45 p.m.

The Fall Meeting will feature a presentation about Remembering Slavery's Living Legacy by the Rev. Dan Smith, Senior Minister at First Church in Cambridge.

This presentation will share the story of how First Church has begun to wrestle with its history of complicity in the living legacy of slavery. After a careful review of their membership roles, the church discovered that there were over 40 names of enslaved persons on their membership rolls. In 2018, the church embarked on a project called "Remembrance and Reparations." The church is now working to create some public remembrance of its slaveholding history, one that has lasting social impact on racial inequities that continue to exist.

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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.



Open to people of
all faiths,
no faith,
and everyone
in between



2019 Annual

LEXINGTON INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING

Service and Reception
Sponsored by the
**Lexington Interfaith Clergy
Association (LICA)**

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26
7:30-9:30
ST. BRIGID CHURCH
1981 MASS AVE

Details on the LICA Facebook Page:
<http://bit.ly/2W4sETm>

*Join us to
give thanks
for our
sacred earth
and reflect
together on
climate change*



UCC STILLSPEAKING DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Better Together

By: Maria Mankin

November 1, 2019

Last year, my best friend's mother died. She was my mother's best friend of forty years. They met in child birthing classes, raised their children together, and gave their children two different models of motherhood.

Continue reading [HERE](#)