



**Pilgrim Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
Worship Sunday — September 14, 2025**

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- † PRELUDE: Prelude for Organ on "How Can I  
Keep from Singing?" — Raymond Haan
- † GATHERING SONG: God Welcomes All  
— John Bell
- † OPENING HYMN: For the Beauty of the Earth
- † ANTHEM: Sheep May Safely Graze  
— J.S. Bach (arr. DePuy)
- † OFFERTORY: For God so Loved the World  
— Marty Haugen
- † HYMN: De Colores\*
- † CLOSING HYMN: May the Sending One  
Defend You\*
- † POSTLUDE: Praise the Lord Who Reigns  
Above — R. Powell

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*Today's service will be recorded.*

## WORSHIP – SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

PRELUDE Prelude for Organ on "How Can I Keep from Singing?" — Raymond Haan

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE Peter Saradjian

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 God Welcomes All — John Bell

God welcomes all, Strangers and Friends  
God's love is strong And it never ends!

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Peter Saradjian

(from the Iona Community)

ONE: God above us - trees, birds and sunshine, stars and moonlight -

**ALL: God above us.**

ONE: God beneath us - earth, rocks and rivers, roots and caverns -

**ALL: God beneath us.**

ONE: God around us - seas, winds and cities, animals and people -

**ALL: God around us.**

ONE: God within us - hopes, tears and laughter, love and wonder -

**ALL: God within us.**

**ONE: God above us, God beneath us, God around us, God within us,**

**ALL: We celebrate that you made us, you love us,  
and you call us to work and rest with you.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**Peter Saradjian**

**Thank you, God. Thanks for beauty: the twinkle in an older person's eye,  
a child's shout of laughter; thanks for greening trees and frozen waterfalls,  
stunning buildings and flowerbeds in summer.**

**Thank you God. Thanks for creativity: the skills of a tapestry weaver,  
the imagination of programmers; thanks for bakers and dancers and crossword  
compilers, for spiders' webs and murals.**

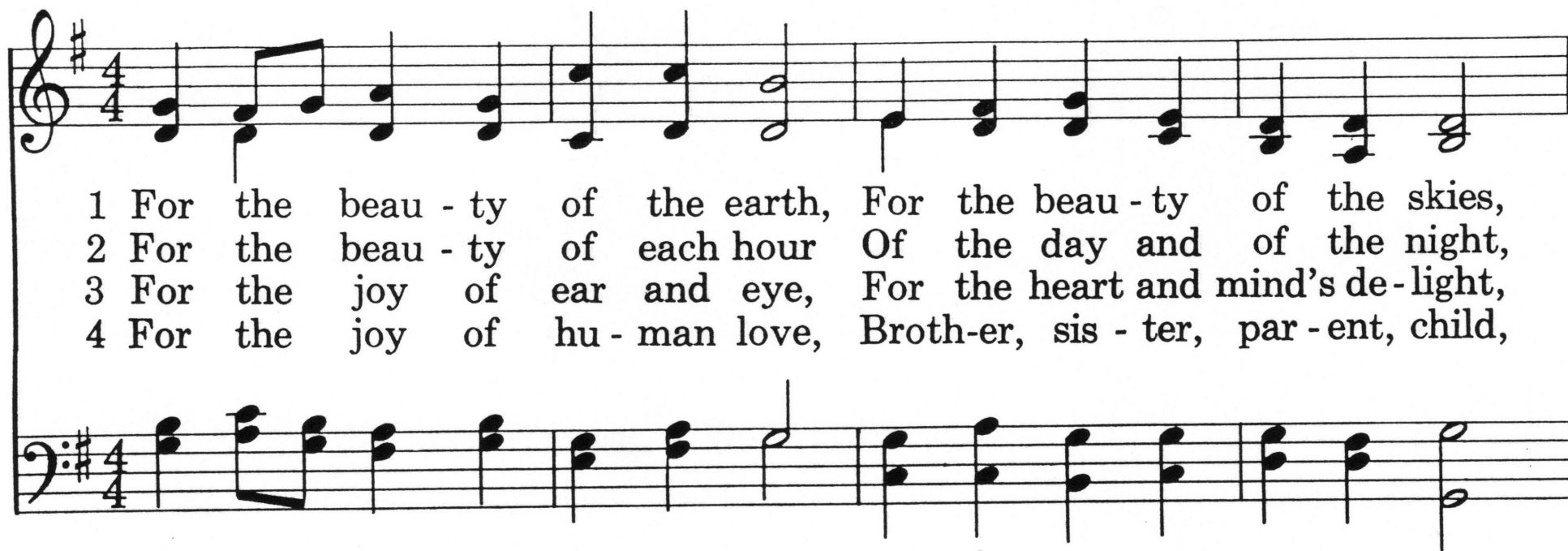
**Thank you God. Thanks for abundance: for seeds and raindrops, for grains of  
sand and infinite galaxies; thanks for seagulls, plankton and shoals of mackerel,  
for wriggling worms and golden dandelions.**

**Thanks for your world, God, and for our part in it. Thanks that you are a maker  
and that you made us makers, too.**

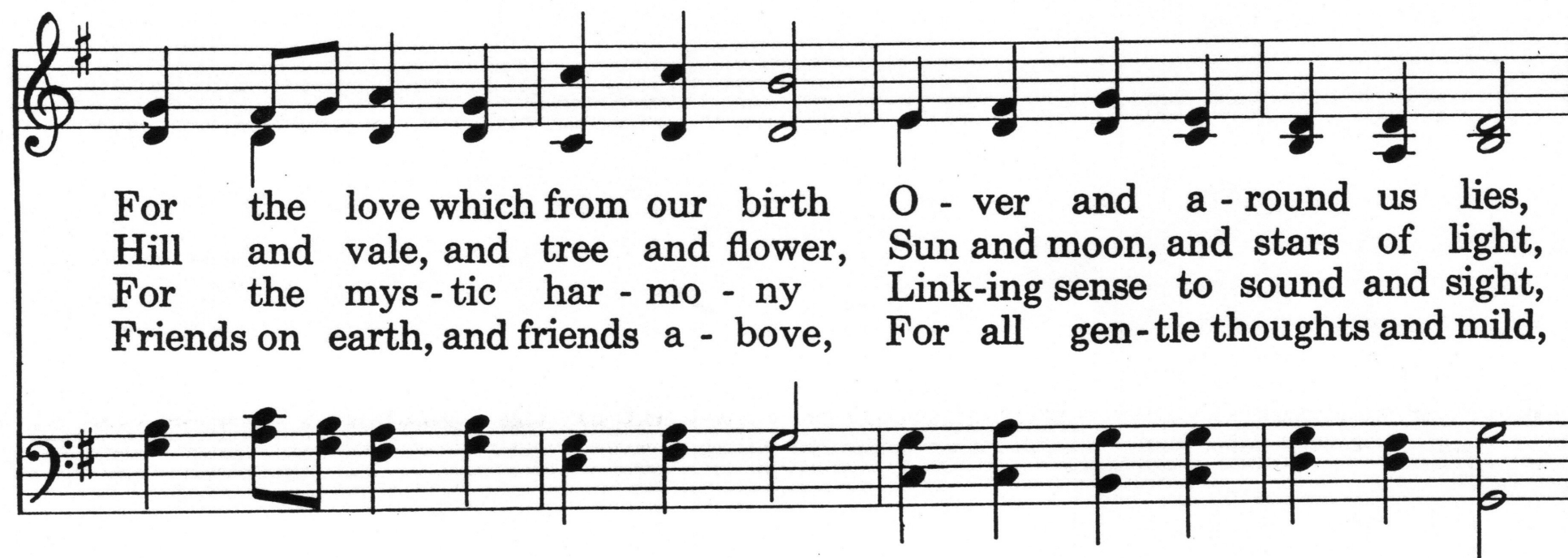
**Help us to love creation as you love it, to take risks to value it as Jesus did, and  
draw us into the wildness and wonder of your Holy Spirit, today and every  
day. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN

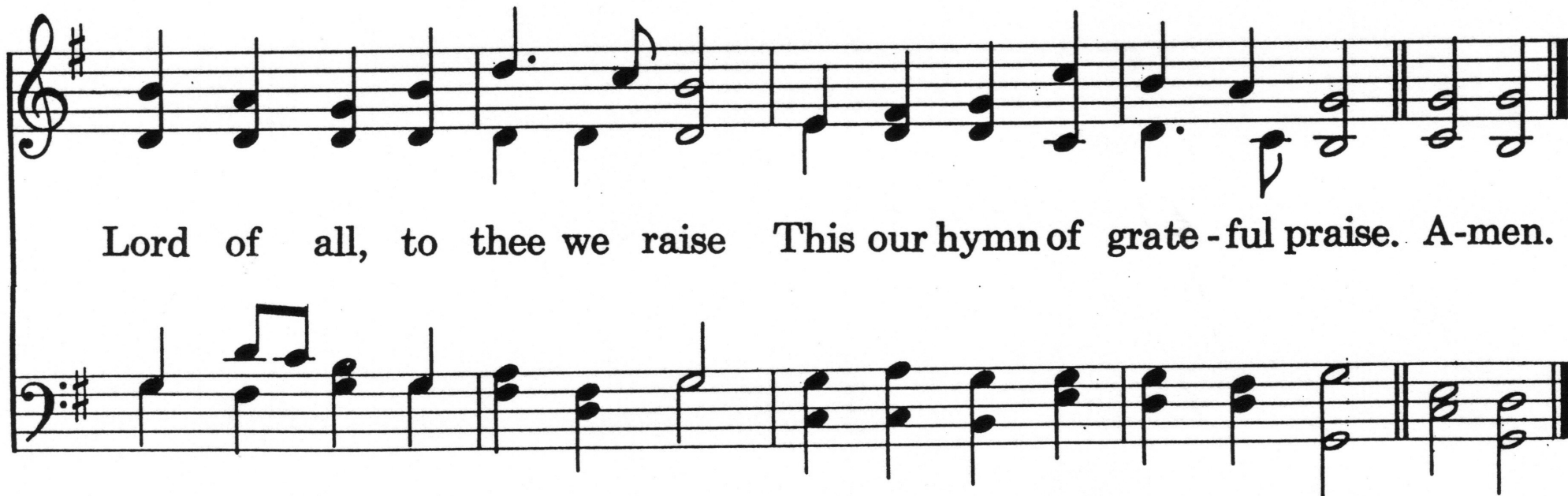
For the Beauty of the Earth — Pilgrim Hymnal 66



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and mind's de-light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth-er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,



For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light,  
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link-ing sense to sound and sight,  
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, For all gen - tle thoughts and mild,



5 For each perfect gift of thine  
Unto us so freely given,  
Graces, human and divine,  
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven,

6 For thy Church that evermore  
Lifteth holy hands above,  
Offering up on every shore  
Her pure sacrifice of love,



## SCRIPTURE READING

Peter Saradjian

John 3:13-17

<sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

<sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

<sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM    Sheep May Safely Graze — J.S. Bach (arr. DePuy), Pilgrim Pick-Up Choir

*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

\*HYMN

De Colores — New Century Hymnal 402  
(next pages)

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

For God so Loved the World — Marty Haugen



Online donation link.

# De colores (Sing of Colors)

*Mexican folk song*

*Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1995*

1 De co - lo - res, de co - lo - res se vis - ten los  
 1 Sing of col - ors, sing of col - ors that o - ver the  
 2 Sing, re - joic - ing! Ev - ery crea - ture that breathes raise a

cam - pos en la pri - ma - ve - ra. De co -  
 hills in pro - fu - sion are spring - ing; Sing of  
 song to the God of cre - a - tion. Sing, re -

lo - res, de co - lo - res son los pa - ja - ri - tos que vie - nen de a -  
 col - ors of the birds that fly out - side my win - dow their can - ti - cles  
 joic - ing! Sing to God who so ear - nest - ly cares, who has of - fered sal -

fue - ra. De co - lo - res, de co -  
 sing - ing; Sing of col - ors, in the  
 va - tion. Sing the good news! Sing the



lo - res es el ar - co i - ris que ve - mos sa - lir, Y por  
 rain-bow's bright col - ors God's prom - ise of hope we re - call; Sing of  
 love of the Sav - ior re - flect - ing the col - ors of all. Man - y

e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co - lo - res me gus - tan a  
 col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the God who cre - at - ed us  
 col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that tell us God's love to re -

mí, Y por e - so los gran - des a - mo - res de mu - chos co -  
 all. Sing of col - ors that make up the earth and give thanks to the  
 call. Man - y col - ors that shine from God's face, man - y col - ors that

lo - res me gus - tan a mí.  
 God who cre - at - ed us all.  
 tell us God's love to re - call.

**\*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**

**God, make us instruments of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.**

**Bless these gifts that they may be used to do your will. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**May the Sending One Defend You — New Century Hymnal 79  
(next page)**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Reebee Girash**

**POSTLUDE**

**Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above — R. Powell**



# May the Sending One Defend You

79

Brian Wren, 1989; rev. 1993

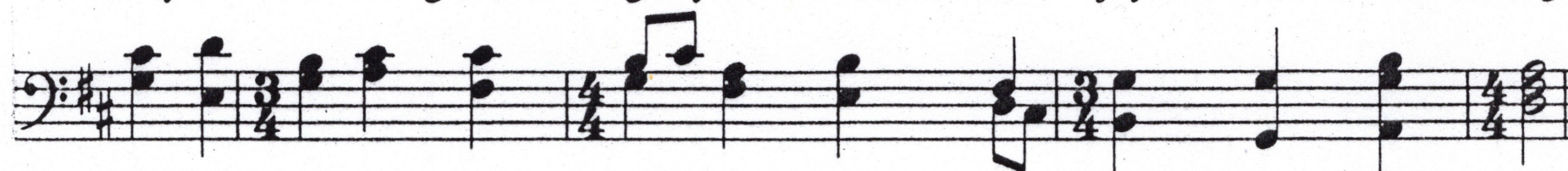
Unison



1 May the Send - ing One de - fend you, may the Seek - ing One a - mend you,  
2 May the Giv - en One re - trieve you, may the Gift - ed One re - lieve you,  
3 May the Bind - ing One u - nite you—may the One Be-loved in - vite you—



May the Keep - ing One be - friend you, in your glad - ness and in your griev - ing.  
May the Giv - ing One re - ceive you, in your fall - ing and your re - stor - ing.  
May the Lov - ing One de - light you—Three-in - One, joy in life un - end - ing.



Brian Wren wrote this text during a visit with composer Mikkel Thompson on Bainbridge Island, Washington. When he first heard the tune, Wren said, "It cried out for a text, and suggested the style of ancient Celtic blessings."

Tune: ROLLINGBAY 8.8.8.9.  
Mikkel Thompson, 1989

*\*Please be in a posture of praise.*

Thank you to the Saradjian Family for greeting and hosting Fellowship hour, to our Liturgist, Peter Saradjian, our Acolytes, Aiden A. and Neil A., and our Zoom host, Mia M.

## SOURCE NOTES

*The Gathering Song* is by John Bell, included in the hymnal *God Welcomes All* (Church of Scotland) and in the songbook of the Iona Community. *The Call to Worship* and *Opening Prayer* are from the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, 2016.

Cover Image: Peterson, Kathleen. *Other Sheep*, from ***Art in the Christian Tradition***, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56573> [retrieved September 9, 2025]. Original source: Kathleen Peterson, <https://www.kathleenpetersonart.com>.

***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.*

## **Save the Dates**

9/16 Bible Study - 10:30 AM

9/16 Church Council Meeting - 7:15 PM

9/21 Worship & Sunday School Service Project at 10:30 AM

- guest speaker from Lexington Creative Start

9/23 Bible Study - 10:30 AM

9/28 Worship & Children's Open House at 10:30 AM

10/4 Pumpkin Patch unloading! 9:00 AM



## **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