

River, John August Swanson



Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 14, 2024

Prelude	<i>Creator of the Stars of Night</i>	Gerald Near
Greetings		Rev. Henrietta Brown
Introit	Jesus, the Light of the World	Simpson-Currenton
*Call to Worship		Cristine Vesely

In every era, God has chosen men and women to serve the needs of God's people. Such a servant was Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birth and prophetic legacy we celebrate.

May the wisdom and words of Martin Luther King rekindle our faith.

May the deep love that Dr. King had for all people be released in us, that we too might work miracles in the lives of those who continue to hate.

Dr. King taught that only love can overcome hatred, bitterness and fear.

May the work of Dr. King continue to eradicate racial injustice and its ungodly consequences.

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an overflowing stream.

Dr. King said that war is never a victory, regardless of the outcome.

May the peace of the risen Christ cause the fury of war to vanish from the face of the earth.

Dr. King went to the mountaintop; and he reassured us that we will get there one day. God of Glory, be with us on the journey.

*Opening Hymn	<i>Hear In This Place</i>	p. 5
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*Opening Prayer	Cristine Vesely
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Confession	Rev. Henrietta Brown
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**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you and against one another,
in thought, and word, and deed.
You have come as the light of the world, but we have often instead chosen to remain in darkness.
We repent of our narrow-mindedness,
of our apathy and our prejudices.
Pardon and forgive us,**

save us and renew us,
that we may delight in your will and walk humbly where you lead us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Friends, God is for us and not against us.
For that reason God sent Jesus into the world —
not to condemn the world, but to save the world.
I declare to you the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven
and set free to live a new life of joy and service.

Blessing of the Banners

Liturgy of Blessing

The banners and paraments that are lovingly and carefully placed on the Sanctuary walls, altar, and pulpit mark the passing of the seasons of the Christian calendar.

We thank you Holy Spirit for the efforts and dedication of those who prepare this Sanctuary for worship.

Today we present and commission into service paraments that remind us of the rich history and tradition of Pilgrim Congregational Church.

We thank you weavers, makers, and artists.

Today we have before us a reminder that we are both warp and weft, lovingly quilted into the fabric of our community.

We thank You Holy Spirit for the vision reflected before us. We accept these paraments as a sacred trust and pledge to use them with reverence.

Let us pray:

**Spirit that lives among us,
may you guide us throughout the year,
opening us to awe, guiding us to beauty,
and joyously proclaiming love.**

**Loving and gracious God,
Grant us Your blessing
as we consecrate this gift of glorious talent,
patient labor, and faithful work.**

Amen!

A Reading from Psalm

Psalm 29

One: This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. All: Thanks be to God

Children's Message

Lee Capps

Scripture Reading

Acts 19:1-7

One: This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Chosen

Rev. Henrietta Brown

Anthem

Be the Light

Willis

Prayer for the Offering

Cristine Vesely

***Doxology**

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God above you heavenly host, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Prayers of the People Loving God, Hear our Prayer

Lord's Prayer *All are encouraged to pray the Lord's Prayer in the manner of their choosing, included below is one version:*

Our Father (Mother, Creator), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Announcements

***Closing Hymn**

Take Me To The Water

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***Benediction**

Rev. Henrietta Brown

Postlude

Concerto in G Major

J.S.Bach

Pilgrim History

In April 1896, the church helped to lobby for and won the cessation of Sunday mail delivery in the village.

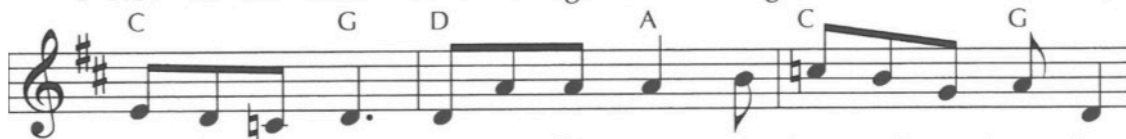
Here in This Place

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Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing; now is the dark-ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys-tery. We are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa-ter; here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,



van-ished a-way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way: here in this place the new light is shin-ing;



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion; give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

The "you/your" mentioned in every stanza is never identified, but this 1979 hymn is clearly a corporate prayer to God on behalf of the diverse congregation who have assembled for worship, longing to be transformed and used as God's witnesses and for God's purposes.

Take Me to the Water

1 Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -
 2 I love Je - sus. I love Je -
 3 He's my Sav - ior. He's my Sav -
 4 Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu -

ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
 sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.
 ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.
 jah. Glo - ry hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

This African American spiritual sums up the commitment of a candidate for baptism: the request for the rite, an expression of motivation, and a succinct affirmation of faith. The widening melodic lines build anticipation and give weight to the final phrase of each stanza.

Nursery Care during worship is available for children ages 5 and under. Please see an usher for location. Today's Nursery Attendants are Katherine Obed & Otto Huber.

Today's Liturgist is David Brodnax Sr. Connect Leaders are Cheryl Capps and Karen Lease. Ushers are Lee Capps and Bill Kent. Our Online Worship Coordinators are Delena Wilkerson, Chuck Behensky, and David Taylor-Glass. Our Sextons are Claudia Divis and Leslie Lauderdale. **We give our thanks** for their important contributions to our worship gathering.

A deacon will be available for **healing prayer** every Sunday, after worship, in the front pew.

Announcements

Volunteers Needed!

The Village of Oak Park has asked for volunteers to pick up breakfasts at local restaurants, four days a week only, and deliver them to the YMCA. If you are able to help, please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094DABA62DA20-47025953-breakfast>. Thank you.

Pilgrim Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Pilgrim Congregational Church will hold its annual business meeting on January 27 at 9-11 am, by Zoom. The zoom link can be found in the January Tidings and the What's Happening.

You are invited to participate and to guide important Church matters, including the church's 2024 budget, election of officers and Council members and more. We will also hear more about plans to celebrate Pilgrim's 150th anniversary. Council looks forward to seeing you there.

Women's Retreat

Friday, February 2 - Sunday, February 4, 2024

"Be sure to register for this year's retreat. It will take place from February 2 - 4 at the peaceful Pilgrim Park in Princeton, Illinois. We will have plenty of great get to know you fellowship as well as structured devotions, a movie, free time, and a Sunday morning service. Cost is \$183 per person Double (\$198 per person Single, \$173 per person Triple) Includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals. Please register at the link found in either the "What's Happening or in the January Tidings". Payment is by check with Women's Retreat in the memo field or by Tithe.ly, dropdown Women's Retreat. Final deadline for registration is January 19. Questions should be addressed to Leslie Sutphen (sutphenl@yahoo.com or 773-251-8996)."

Community of Congregations Annual Gathering

Monday, January 22, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Join us as we highlight the work of the newly created Task Force supporting the West Suburban Resettlement efforts. The Annual Gathering will take place at New Mount Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church (4301 W. Washington, Chicago, IL 60624). A suggested goodwill offering is \$15. Please RSVP to oprfcoc@gmail.com

Pilgrim Congregational Church

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All of Us