

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 19, 2023

**Prelude** *Now Thank We All Our God* J.S.Bach

**Greetings** Rev. Colin Knapp

**Introit** *All the Earth Sings Praise* Vivaldi/Hopson

**\*Call to Worship** Mark Pedigo

God help us to present to You so we can hear you speaking to us.

**Help us to open our hearts and minds as we worship together.**

May we be thankful for all the gifts we have been given now and always.

**It is good for us to give thanks for the abundant life Christ has given us.**

**Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn** *We Praise You, O God* p. 3

**\*Opening Prayer** Mark Pedigo

**Confession** Rev. Henrietta Brown

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against You  
in thought, word, and deed;  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved You with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

(time for silent confession)

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we might delight in Your will  
and follow in Your ways, to the glory of Your name.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

By dying, Christ destroyed our death.  
**In rising, Christ restores our life;**  
In giving us his Spirit,  
**He grants us peace.**

May the peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## We Praise You, O God

612

1 We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;  
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and moth - ers;  
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.  
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.  
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;  
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,  
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.  
 To you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

The author wrote this text when only nineteen years old in response to a request from the organist of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, who wanted another Thanksgiving text to sing to this Dutch tune. He regarded the usual text (see no. 336) as too full of conflict.

TEXT: Julia C. Cory, 1902, alt.

MUSIC: *Neder-landsch Gedenck-Clanck*, 1626; harm. Eduard Kremser, 1877

KREMSE

12.11.12.11

(this tune in a lower key, 336)

CCLI# 1296903

DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

## Lord, Prepare Me

701

## Sanctuary

Lord, pre - pare me to be a sanc - tu - ar - y, pure and  
ho - ly, tried and true. With thanks - giv - ing,  
I'll be a liv - ing sanc - tu - ar - y for you.

The lines given here convey the central message of the longer song for which they form the refrain. The principal Scripture reference is 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, Paul's reminder to the Christians at Corinth that "[they] are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in [them]."

TEXT: John Thompson and Randy Scuggs, 1982

MUSIC: John Thompson and Randy Scuggs, 1982; arr. Nyles L. Butler-Woese

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Music Arr. © 2013 Full Arson Music Publishing Co. (admin. in the U.S.A., Permusic®), God/Mel Secord Corp.)

SANCTUARY

Irregular

## New Testament Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

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

## Children's Message

Use it or Lose it

Maureen Deahl

## Sermon

Entrusted With Much

Rev. Colin Knapp

## Anthem

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant

Bertig/Lugo

## Prayer for the Offering

Mark Pedigo

## \*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!*

## Holy Communion

Rev. Colin Knapp

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

## It is right to give thanks and praise

Therefore we praise You, joining our voices with the angels  
and with all the company of heaven, who forever proclaim the glory  
of Your Name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus  
Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy  
and living sacrifice, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.**

**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*

**Communion Meditation**

*Adoro te devote*

Jean Langlais

**Reflecting On Stewardship**

Susan MacLean

**Announcements**

Rev. Henrietta Brown

**Closing Hymn**

*Standing at the Future's Threshold*

p. 6

**\*Benediction**

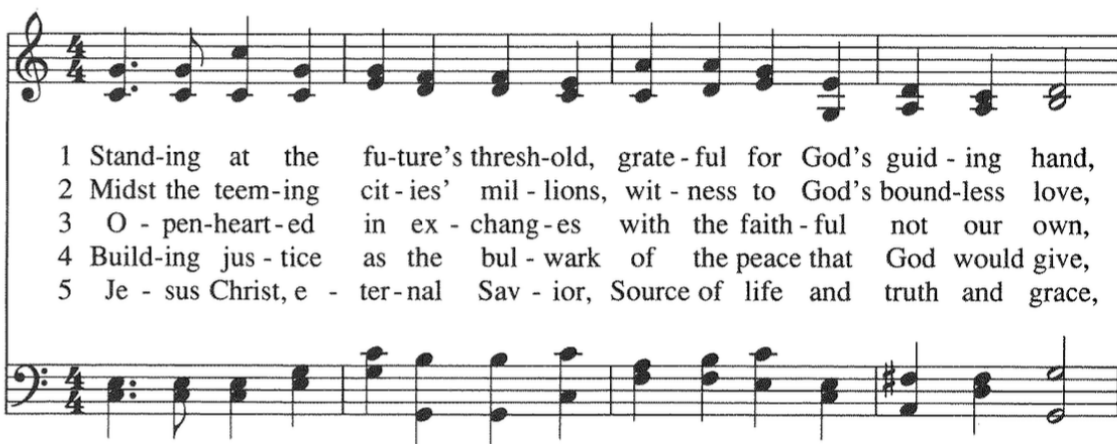
Rev. Colin Knapp

**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.

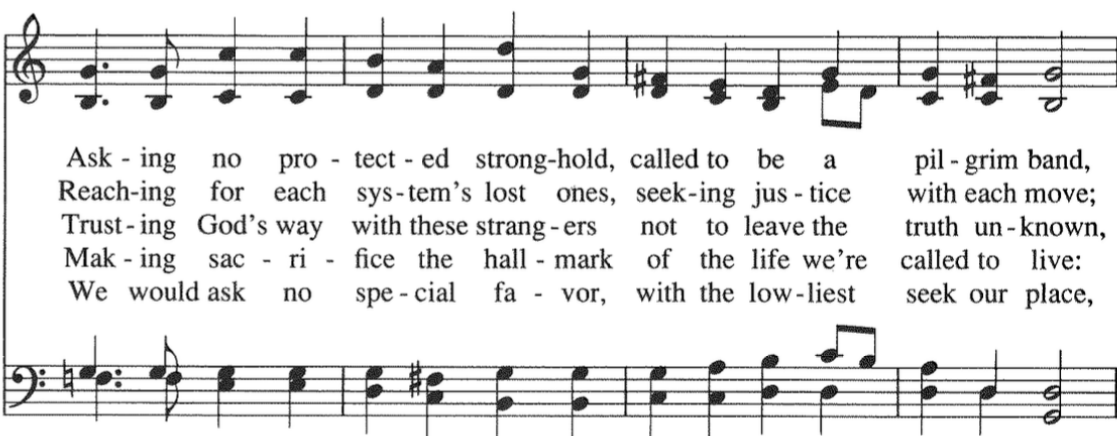
Today's Liturgist is Mark Pedigo. Connect Leaders are Karen Lease and Leslie Sutphen. Ushers are Lee Capps and Henry Guerriero. Our Online Worship Coordinators are Delena Wilkerson, Chuck Behensky, and David Taylor-Glass. Our Sextons are Claudia Divis and Leslie Lauderdale. **We give our thanks** for their important contributions to our worship gathering. Our guest pianist today is Rob Clearfield. Today's prelude and postlude will be improvisations.

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

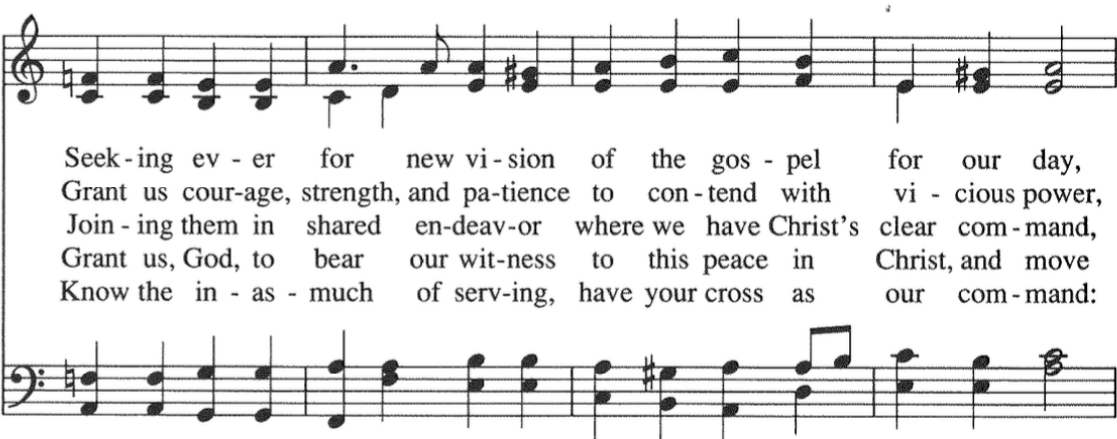
## Standing at the Future's Threshold

*Matt. 25:31-40**Paul R. Gregory, 1985; rev. 1994*


1 Stand-ing at the fu-ture's thresh-old, grate-ful for God's guid-ing hand,  
 2 Midst the teem-ing cit-ies' mil-lions, wit-ness to God's bound-less love,  
 3 O-pen-heart-ed in ex-chang-es with the faith-ful not our own,  
 4 Build-ing jus-tice as the bul-wark of the peace that God would give,  
 5 Je-sus Christ, e-ter-nal Sav-ior, Source of life and truth and grace,



Ask-ing no pro-TECT-ed strong-hold, called to be a pil-grim band,  
 Reach-ing for each sys-tem's lost ones, seek-ing jus-tice with each move;  
 Trust-ing God's way with these strang-ers not to leave the truth un-known,  
 Mak-ing sac-ri-fice the hall-mark of the life we're called to live:  
 We would ask no spe-cial fa-vor, with the low-liest seek our place,



Seek-ing ev-er for new vi-sion of the gos-pel for our day,  
 Grant us cour-age, strength, and pa-tience to con-tend with vi-cious power,  
 Join-ing them in shared en-deav-or where we have Christ's clear com-mand,  
 Grant us, God, to bear our wit-ness to this peace in Christ, and move  
 Know the in-as-much of serv-ing, have your cross as our com-mand:

*Paul Gregory served as East and Southeast Asia secretary of the United Church Board for World Ministries from 1957 to 1986. This hymn was written for the conclusion of the 175th anniversary of that board, and looked to the mission challenges of the future. "Inasmuch" in stanza five is a reference to the command Jesus gives in Matthew 25:40.*

Tune: LUXEOI 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Arthur S. Sullivan (1842-1900)



## Announcements

### Multi-Faith Thanksgiving Service

**Today, November 19, 2023, 7:00 PM**

Join Community of Congregations for the Multi-Faith Thanksgiving Service, which will be held at West Suburban Temple Har Zion (1040 N. Harlem Ave, River Forest)

### **\*\*Save the Date - Pilgrim Community Nursery School Fundraiser \*\***

**Tuesday, November 21st**

The delicious and generous Lou Malnati's Pizzeria (1038 Lake St) is donating back 20% of Dine-In, Takeout & Delivery orders to support a great cause -- Pilgrim Community Nursery School! Mention Pilgrim Community Nursery School or code GRPRSFUND23 when you order.

On behalf of Pilgrim Community Nursery School you're invited to join us and eat out, not only in support of the organization, but to show one of your Oak Park restaurants some love too!

### Holiday Artisan Market and Cookie Walk!

**Saturday, December 2, 2023, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Save the date! Pilgrim Community Nursery School's Annual Holiday Artisan Market and Cookie Walk is Saturday December 2nd, 10 am - 2 pm in Fellowship Hall. Calling all Pilgrim crafters and artisans! If you would like to set up a table to sell your creations for the event, please scan the QR code on the PCNS door for more information. As a Pilgrim congregant, your registration fee for a table will be waived.

We are also welcoming handmade raffle item donations and cookie walk bakers! Contact Emily for more information [emily.norman@pilgrimschool.net](mailto:emily.norman@pilgrimschool.net)

**Housing Forward** is once again looking for people to sponsor families and individuals so that they might receive gifts this Christmas and more importantly, know that they are loved and cared for. The forms to sign up can be found at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to sponsor an individual or family and don't have time to shop and wrap, Kathleen would be happy to do so. Talk with her or email at [klojas38@gmail.com](mailto:klojas38@gmail.com).

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Ministers:  
All of Us