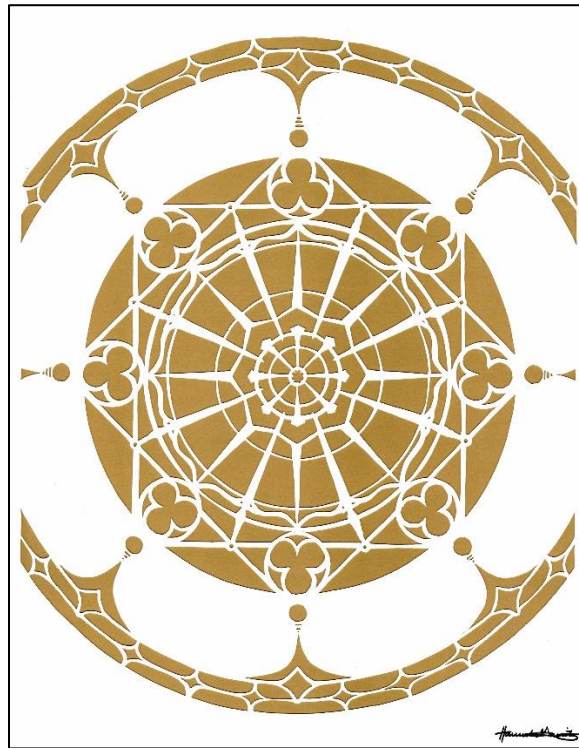


# Pilgrim Congregational Church

United Church of Christ  
Harwich Port, Massachusetts



**Sunday, March 9, 2025**

***We come together to grow in faith  
and joyfully share God's love with all.***

## Welcome to our Worship Service

An asterisk (\*) indicates an invitation to stand if you are able.

**Prelude**      “Wie schon leuchtet der Morgenstern”      J.C. Bach

## Welcome and Announcements

### Passing of the Peace

*We acknowledge one another with a nod, wave, or “Peace be with you.”*

## Chimes

### \*Call to Worship

One:      Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

**All:      Jesus went into the city to heal.**

One:      Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

**All:      Jesus went to the water’s edge to teach.**

One:      Jesus went to places of peace and connection,

**All:      but Jesus also went to the wilderness.**

One:      There is nowhere we can go  
            That God does not walk with us.

**All:      We are in God’s house.  
            Let us worship our Holy God.**

## Lighting the Christ Candles and Peace Candle

**\*Hymn**      “Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days”      #211

## **Opening Prayer**

**All: God of the wilderness places in our lives,  
it can be hard to hear you in the desert.  
It can be hard to hear you in the city,  
in the midst of our calendar reminders,  
rush hour traffic and notification alerts.  
It can be hard to hear you, so we ask:  
make everything quiet.  
Pause the chaos.  
Still the rushing.  
Ease our racing thoughts.  
Give us ears to hear your Word for us today  
which promises that even in the desert  
you are full to the brim.  
We are listening.  
We ache for your good news.  
Gratefully we pray. Amen.**

**Sung Prayer Response “I Need You Every Hour” (refrain only) #517**

## **Call to Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**One: Friends, we worship a God who doesn't keep score and doesn't hold grudges. We worship a God who invites us into a richer faith, a deeper love, a more compassionate existence with a million and one chances to try again. So let us speak truth in our lives, asking for God's help where we need it. Let us pray the prayer for transformation and new life together.**

## **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

One: Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power -

**All: Teach us a new way.**

One: Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth -

**All: Teach us a new way.**

One: Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control -

**All: Teach us a new way.**

One: Teach us to live as you live.

**All: Teach us to love as you love.**

One: Forgive us when we don't.

**All: Gratefully we pray.**

## **Time for Silent Prayer**

### **Assurance of God's Grace**

One: Siblings in Christ, no matter how many times we mess up, no matter how far we wander, no matter how lost we feel, God's grace is full to the brim. It overflows in desert places. It finds us where we are and it covers us in mercy. Hear and believe this good news -

**All: God's love is overflowing  
We are drenched in mercy.  
Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **A Message for Children of All Ages**

**Anthem**

“Total Praise”

Richard Smallwood

**Scripture Lessons**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (Old Testament page 180)

Luke 4:1-13 (New Testament page 61)

**Sermon**

“Identity Theft”

Rev. Amie Stuart Giguere

**Affirmation of Faith**

One: We believe God is love.

**All: We believe God’s love is overflowing.**

One: We believe Jesus is a river.

**All: We believe that river is running toward us.**

One: We believe the Holy Spirit is a vessel.

**All: We believe that vessel holds mercy for you and for me.**

One: We believe the wilderness is real.

**All: We believe the desert is lonely.**

One: We believe that Jesus has been there.

**All: We know that we do not walk alone.**

One: Even in the desert,

**All: we are loved.**

One: Even in the desert,

**All: this love overflows.**

One: Thanks be go God,

**All: Amen.**

**\*Hymn**

“O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free”

#209

## **Call to Offering**

**Offertory**            “Wenn wir in höchsten Noten sein”            J. C. Bach

## **\*Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **\*Prayer of Dedication**

**All: Almighty God, as Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and overcame through the Holy Spirit, we offer these gifts as a testament to our trust in your provision and guidance. May they be used to strengthen your work in the world and to help those who are struggling. Bless these offerings. May they be a source of hope, truth and renewal for those who receive them. Amen.**

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## **Prayers of the People with the Lord’s Prayer**

**Our 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 glory forever. Amen.**

## **\*Hymn**

**“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”**

**#439**

## **\*Benediction**

As you leave this place,  
May you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.  
May you laugh, and may it be contagious.  
May you overflow with love for those around you.  
May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.  
And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,  
may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,  
and may it change your life.  
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,  
go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

**Postlude**

“Festive Trumpet Tune”

David German

Written prayers adapted from words by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed |  
A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

# Pilgrim Congregational Church

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For an appointment, please contact Rev. Amie –  
[revamie@pcchp.org](mailto:revamie@pcchp.org)

To receive our weekly church email, please contact the office.

## Today's Worship Leaders:

**Minister:** Rev. Amie Stuart Giguere

**Guest Accompanist:** Leslie Roselli

**Lay Worship Leader:** Carol Wiley

**Fellowship Hour Hosts:** Betsy Babb and Derry Winch

## This Week at Pilgrim Church:

Tuesday, March 11	10am Izzy's Team 2pm Afterschool Gym No Choir
Wednesday, March 12	3pm Joyful Prayer Group 5:30pm Sound Dunes rehearsal
Thursday, March 13	9am Study Group 11am Coffee and Conversation No Bell Choir
Friday, March 14	11am Stitch Group

Deacons' Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 10am

Trustees' Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 3:30pm

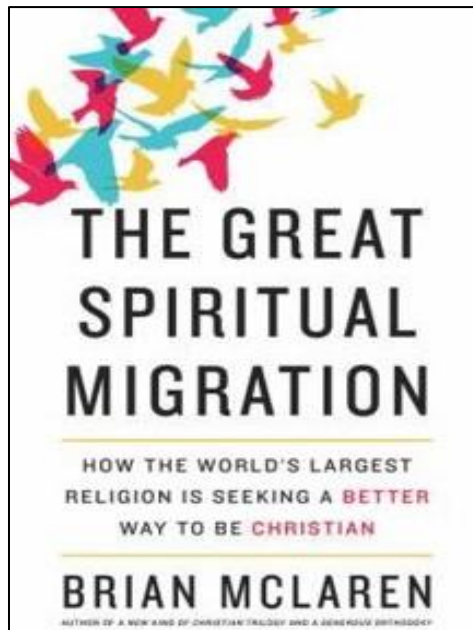
Church Council Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 2:30pm

Missions and Outreach Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 8:30am

Vision Team Meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. at 5pm and 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. at 11:30am



# Thursday Morning Study Group



Our next book is one we hope the whole congregation will read together: *The Great Spiritual Migration: How the World's Largest Religion is Seeking a Better Way to be Christian* by Brian McLaren. This book will help us live into our new vision for Pilgrim Church and help us figure out how to take action in ways that really matter, ways that help us live more faithfully and ways that will have greater meaning and impact. After all, McLaren writes, "To be human is to move. To be human is to change. [The book] is an invitation to help create a better future for our faith and for our world." We can all become reflections of Christ in the world, working together for the common good.

Please join us for this important study! We meet Thursday mornings from 9-10am on Zoom, beginning on March 6. Contact Rev. Amie for the link.