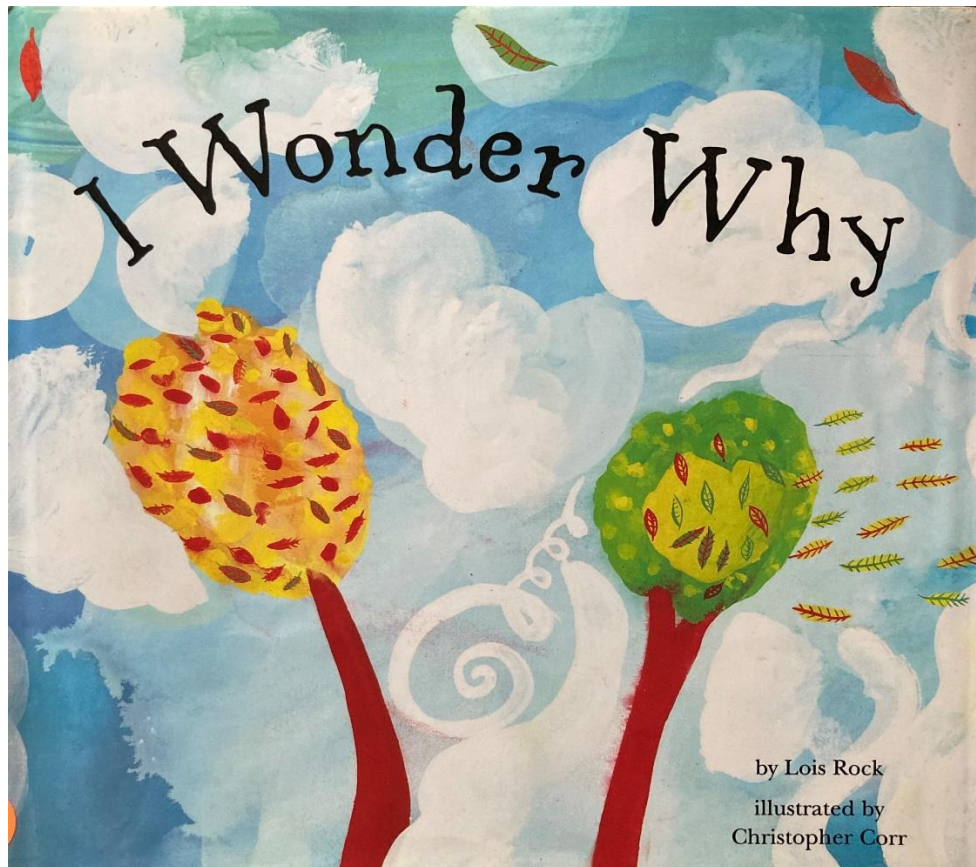


# Pilgrim Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Harwich Port, Massachusetts



**Sunday, January 29, 2023**

## **Our Mission Statement:**

We welcome ALL  
to share the teachings of Jesus Christ,  
to care for one another,  
to serve others with compassion and love.

## **Welcome to our Worship Service**

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

**Chimes** *The chimes begin our service. Please silence cell phones.*

## **Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** “Gabriel's Oboe” (Mary O'Keefe, oboe) E. Morricone

**Call to Worship** (responsively) from Psalm 8

O God, Our Beloved,

When I look up at the heavens, at the work of your creation,  
at the infinite variety of your plan

**What is woman that you rejoice in her,  
and man that you delight in him?**

You have made us in your image, you fill us with your Love.

You have made us co-creators of the earth, guardians of the  
planet

to care for all your creatures, all that you have made you have  
placed in our hands.

**O Love, our Beloved, how powerful is your name in all the earth!**

**\*Opening Hymn** “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” #25

## **Lighting the Peace Candle**

### **Prayer for Peace**

God, forgive us, for we have not been peacemakers.

We have failed to meet others with open hearts.

We worry about things we cannot control.  
We speak of peace, but fail to be peace, fail to live peace.  
Reach deep within us in this hour of worship.  
Help us live in greater trust,  
embracing the hope and peace that only You can give  
and sharing it with others. Amen.  
*Time for personal and silent prayers of confession.*

### **Words of Assurance**

We acknowledge those around us with a wave, a nod, or “Peace be with you.”

**Choral Anthem**                      “Total Praise”                      Richard Smallwood

**Time for All God’s Children**                      “I Wonder Why”                      by Lois Rock

**Scripture Lesson**                      Genesis 12:1- 5                      (see insert)

**Sermon**                      “Grace-Full”                      Reverend Helen Nablo

**\*Hymn**                      “Amazing Grace”                      #547

### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**                      “Nocturne” (Mary O'Keefe, oboe)                      L. Bassi

### **\*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** (responsively)

Thanks be to God, for God is good,  
and God's steadfast love endures forever!

**Thanks be to God – whose love creates us.**

**Thanks be to God – whose mercy redeems us.**

**Thanks be to God – whose grace leads us into the future.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison)

Our Father, 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Litany of Farewell** (see insert)

**\*Closing Hymn** "In the Midst of New Dimensions" #391

**Benediction**

**Benediction Song** "God be With You" (first verse) #81

**Postlude** "With Joy We See You" David Paxton

## Genesis 12:1-5

**12** The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation,  
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,  
and you will be a blessing.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
and whoever curses you I will curse;  
and all peoples on earth  
will be blessed through you.”<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. <sup>5</sup> He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

### Mary O'Keefe, oboe

Mary O’Keefe graduated from the New England Conservatory, having completed her master’s degree while studying with BSO principal oboist, John Ferrillo, in 2020. As a freelance musician in Boston, she has played with Boston Modern Opera Project, A Far Cry, Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Cape Cod Chamber Orchestra, Chorus pro-Musica, and more. In 2021, she was one of the winners of the Borromeo Quartet Guest Artist Award, performing with the quartet in Jordan Hall. She is dedicated to exploring the intersection of music and social justice through past work for Music for Food and previous projects organizing benefit concerts for the Nature Conservancy, the ACLU, and Doctors Without Borders. Outside of music, Mary is an avid thrifter who works as a freelance wardrobe stylist.

# Next Sunday: Communion Sunday Food Drive



Hunger is a year-round issue for so many on Cape Cod, especially with the rising cost of everything. Pilgrim Church food drives play an important role in helping to ease the strain of food insecurity, especially during the winter months.

Please continue to be generous and contribute to our Communion Sundays Food Drive that takes place on the first Sunday of each month.

There is a receptacle in the coat room for your donations of non-perishable food items. All the food donated will be delivered to the Cape Cod Council of Churches food pantry on Route 28 in West Harwich.

## Litany of Farewell

Leader: A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals and families come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we say farewell to Pastor Helen whose time as our interim pastor has come to an end.

*Pastor: I thank Pilgrim Congregational Church, its members, and friends, for the love, kindness, and support shown to me in our time together. I thank you for accepting my leadership. I recall with joy the many things we have been able to accomplish together. I ask for your understanding and forgiveness for the mistakes I made and for the times I let you down.*

**Congregation: We receive your thankfulness, and we offer our forgiveness for any failures. We accept that you now leave us to minister elsewhere. Your influence on us will not leave us, even though you depart from us. We express gratitude for your time among us and ask your forgiveness for our shortcomings and sometimes flagging faith.**

*Pastor: I forgive you your failures and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to the God we are called to serve.*

Leader: Do you, the members and friends of Pilgrim Church, now release Pastor Helen from the duties of interim pastor?

**Congregation: We do, with the help of God.**

Leader: Do you, Pastor Helen, release Pilgrim Church from turning to you and depending on you?

*Pastor: I do, with the help of God.*

Leader: Let us pray.

**Congregation: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future, which rests in your care. During our time together, we have experienced laughter and tears, hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we carry these cherished memories with us in new directions until the time when we are completely one with you and one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.**

Leader: Go now, Pastor Helen, surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God, the presence of Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



# Pilgrim Congregational Church

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The church office is open Monday – Friday, 9am-2pm.  
A weekly email is sent out on Friday to members and friends.  
If you do not receive it and would like to,  
please contact the church office to sign up.

## Today's Worship Leaders:

**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Helen Nablo

**Director of Music:** Matt Scinto

**Worship Leader:** Carol Wiley

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** The Deacons

**The flowers** that adorn the altar today are dedicated to Rev. Helen Nablo  
“with love and gratitude from the congregation. God be with you.”

**The steeple** will be lit on January 28 and 29 in honor of Rev. Helen “who  
has been our shining light and inspiration during her time as pastor –  
from your grateful congregation.”

## This Week at Pilgrim Church:

Tuesday, January 31	10am Izzy's Team 3pm Afterschool Gym 7pm Choir
Wednesday, February 1	9:30am Walking Meditation
Thursday, February 2	3pm Afterschool Gym 3:30pm Joyful Prayer 7pm Bell Choir
Friday, February 3	11am Knitting Group

**Join us for Coffee Hour in Monbleau Hall  
following the worship service today.**