

honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as I heard your greeting, the baby in my womb jumped for joy. ⁴⁵ Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her." ⁴⁶ Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! ⁴⁷ In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. ⁴⁸ He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored ⁴⁹ because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is his name. ⁵⁰ He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. ⁵² He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, ⁵⁵ just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever." ⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.

TODAY'S MESSAGE **Mary was a Nobody** Rev. Carol Clements

HYMN #132 Pilgrim Hymnal O Come, All Ye Faithful

PRAYER

One: May our souls magnify the Lord.

All: May our spirits rejoice in God, our Savior.

One: For the Mighty One has looked upon us with favor.

All: The Holy One has done great things for us.

One: From generation to generation, God's mercy is shown to those who worship in spirit and in truth.

All: God's mercy and goodness will follow us all the days of our live, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

RESPONSE *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* #117 *New Century Hymnal*

3. Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here, Christ, abide!

Let me your inner presence feel; your grace and love in me reveal.

4. So come, my Sovereign; enter in! Let new and nobler life begin;

Your Holy Spirit guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Angels We Have Heard On High*

Altar Flowers: Joan Subichin

Liturgist: Benjamin Knight

Dedication: In Celebration and Thanksgiving for Rev. Carol Clements' time with Pilgrim's Faith Community.

PowerPoint: Kelly Gerstenberger

Live Stream: Dan Gerstenberger

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

Guest/Pulpit Supply Pastor: Rev. Carol Clements

Minister of Music: Benjamin Knight

Choir Director: Kimberly Knight

Secretary: Kelly Gerstenberger

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Pilgrim United Church of Christ

A Caring Church for Thinking People

130 Broad Blvd † Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221 † 330.928.4847
† www.pilgrimcf.org †



Sunday, December 11, 2022



Mary was a Nobody
Rev. Carol Clements

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
† Sunday, December 11, 2022 †
3rd Sunday of Advent

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUST BREATHE: (moments for silent reflection)

Emmanuel, God is with us. God is in our midst. This is the promise of Advent.

One: Surely God is in our midst.

PRELUDE *On This Day the Earth Shall Ring* Arr. Larry Shackley

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF **LOVE**

Benjamin & Kimberly Knight

One: God is making the final preparations for an amazing thing! Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope, our Prince of Peace, our leader of love.

All: We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.

One: We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of the Advent candles.

All: We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of love.

One: At first, there was the frail light of a single candle of hope daring to pierce through the darkness of despair and sin.

All: Then, there was the candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire, the one that calls out the violent forces and lets in God's deep and tranquil Spirit.

One: Today, we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so completely describes what we know of our God.

All: For God so loved the world . . .

One: For God so loved the world that a child was given. A savior was made in the form of Love Incarnate, and Love was allowed to live on . . .

All: We gather, then, in Christian love; we give thanks for a love that passes understanding, and we wait the dawning of God's pervasive and enduring love once more this Christmas season.

HYMN #131 New Century Hymnal

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

GATHERING PRAYER

Benjamin Knight

All: Gather us, Emmanuel, as we come to worship and rejoice together. Be with us now, as you have always been with us. Prepare our hearts to receive your presence, and prepare our lives to produce the fruit of your justice and righteousness, peace and love. Gather us in, Emmanuel, that we might be strengthened to go forth as your beloved children. Amen.

RESPONSE *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus* #122 New Century Hymnal

**1. Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set all people free;
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.
2. Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.**

OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* Arr. Keveran

HYMN #128 New Century Hymnal *In the Bleak Midwinter*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Carol Clements

CHOIR ANTHEM *Will We Know Him?* Don Besig & Nancy Price

(or)
SPECIAL MUSIC *O God Beyond All Praising* Gustav Holst
Kimberly Knight, soloist

PASTOR'S PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen!

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING

Benjamin Knight

Luke 1:39-56 CEB

³⁹ Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. ⁴⁰ She entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² With a loud voice she blurted out, "God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. ⁴³ Why do I have this

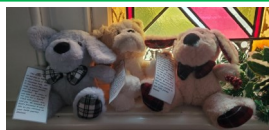
WELCOME

We joyfully welcome all visitors!

Please join us again!

We are very glad You chose to Worship with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



These small stuffed critters are in the church sanctuary and are ready to take to anyone who needs to know that someone cares about them.



The Deadline is approaching!

Place your receipts from August 4 - December 24, 2022 with the "Community Cash Back" amounts in the collection box

or send into Pilgrim's office. **As of December 5th Pilgrim has collected \$2,462.29 in Community Cash Back!**

S.A.R.A. Update:

The stockpile of clothes and medical supplies have been picked-up and are on the way to Ukraine. Thank you for your generous donations.

Jo & Bob Kindel

- FILL THE PEW -

◇ Bring new blankets and new towel sets for Good Neighbors.

◇ Items are being collected for the Blessing Box.

Cereal	Canned Fruit	Canned Vegetables
Canned Meats	Kleenex	Shaving Cream/Razors
Toothpaste/Toothbrushes		Toilet Paper
Gloves/Mittens/Hats/Scarfs/Socks		



PRAYERS & PRAISES:

- ◇ John & Kathie dealing with COVID.
- ◇ Three neighbors of Linda & Jim dealing with serious medical issues.
- ◇ A friend with COVID for the 3rd time.
- ◇ Those dealing with illness, sadness, depression, fragility of body.
- ◇ More loving behavior.
- ◇ Caring for one another.
- ◇ The natural disasters and political unrest in the world.
- ◇ Jeala Mary Youssefi need for sleep, eliminate fear/phobia of the night .

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH @ 7:00 P.M.

CALENDAR

Sunday, December 11, 2022: 3rd Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. In-Person & Live-Stream (Facebook) Worship Service,
Rev. Carol Clements, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship/Social Hour - Beverages, Social Hall

11:40 a.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal, Music Room

Monday, December 12, 2022:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School-Violin Lessons, Adult Library

Tuesday, December 13, 2022:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

11:00 a.m. Bible Study with Rev. Carol in the Rev. Green Room

3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School-Violin Lessons, Adult Library

6:30 - 10:00 p.m. Broad Highway AA, Heritage Room

Wednesday, December 14, 2022:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School-Violin Lessons, Adult Library

Thursday, December 15, 2022:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Scout Pack #3186 - Christmas Party, Social Hall

7:00 - 9:30 p.m. Emotions Anonymous, Adult Library

Friday, December 16, 2022:

Absorbent Minds Montessori School

5:00 p.m. Deadline January Spire Information to the Church Office

Saturday, December 17, 2022:

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Akron Multi-District AA Meeting, Adult Library

7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

Sunday, December 18, 2022: 4th Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. In-Person & Live-Stream (Facebook) Worship Service,
Rev. Carol Clements, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship/Social Hour - Wassail & Cookies, Social Hall

11:40 a.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal, Music Room

**NO WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022 —
ENJOY TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!**