

Is the Lord Satisfied with Me?



July 18, 2018

Written by **Christina Villabout**

About the Author: Christina Villa is the former Director of Publishing, Identity, and Communications for the United Church of Christ.

"So then each of us will give an account of ourselves to God." - Romans 14:12

Every day on my drive to work, I used to pass a crumbling brick church with grime-covered windows and a tiny patch of dirt and weeds out front. This patch of dirt is where the church sign is, and for many months, behind the broken glass, it had this message on it: "I wonder is the Lord satisfied with me?" After driving past the sign about 200 times, it finally occurred to me that I'd never asked myself that question.

Because of course the Lord is satisfied with me! It's God's job. To approve of me even if no one else does. I was raised to believe in a supremely tactful Lord. One who, if dissatisfied with me, would be discreet about it. Such a God is comforting to have around in the background, but easy to forget all about for long stretches of time—like a distant relative in a nursing home.

I know there are many people whose lives are shadowed, if not destroyed, by being taught that God is always up there looking down on them—constantly judging, disapproving, doling out punishment. For them, the idea of a God who takes a break from judging to be merciful must be a huge relief.

But possibly for other people used to a benign God-in-the-background whose main function is just to be there, like wallpaper, the idea of a God who has standards—and uses them—might also be a relief.

It means there's a better judge of who you are and what you do than just other people. Or worse, just you. A God who judges is one whose comfort, when it comes, means something.

Prayer:

O thoughtful, considerate God, I have appreciated your quiet supportiveness the few times I've given it thought. But what I really want to know now is, are you satisfied with me? Amen

Mission Statement:

***God calls us to live our faith as disciples
Sharing the love of God revealed through Christ
In the community and the world.***

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Staff

Pastor, Rev. Kirk W. Bruce: pilgrimpastor@ameritech.net

F.F. Director, Marilyn Freeman: pilgrimce@ameritech.net

Music Director, Kyle Kelvington: kelvingtonk@gmail.com

Secretary, Kelly Gerstenberger: pilgrimoffice@ameritech.net

Acolyte: *Thank You!*

Altar Flowers: *In memory of Roy & Mary Lou Stewart. Cindy Spenoso*

Greeters: *Everyone present today!*

Ushers: *Thank You!*

PowerPoint: *Cheryl Bruce*

Liturgist: *Kurt Spenoso*

Fellowship: *Team #4*

Steeple Lighting: *Anonymous*

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, July 22, 2018



You are God's Creation! Now What?
Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

***Pilgrim United Church of Christ
A Caring Church for Thinking People***
Sunday, July 22, 2018 † Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

THE PRELUDES *Zacchaeus (Congregation sings)* Traditional
 Jacob's Ladder (Congregation sings refrain) Spiritual
 Ken Anderson, baritone & Kyle Kelvington, tenor

*HYMN (Black Hymnal) *Lord, I Want To Be a Christian* No. 454

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 89)

One: Come, let us sing of the Lord's great love.

All: I will declare that your love O Lord, stands forever.

One: God has made a covenant with each of us.

All: I will live out God's calling in my life both now and ever more.

*THE INVOCATION, OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison) Kurt Spenoso

We come together this day O Lord, celebrating Your love for us. You love us as we are, and challenge us to grow into who we can become. Help us to learn to love others as they are. Help us to grow in the challenge to be the best that we can be. Help us to be examples of Your love for the world to see. Hear us now as we pray together the prayer Your son taught us, "Our Father . . . "[debt, debtors]

*THE GLORIA PATRI (Red Hymnal) No. 513

OPENING OURSELVES TO GOD AND EACH OTHER

*GREETING EACH OTHER IN CHRIST

OUR LIFE TOGETHER Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

CHILDREN'S SERMON Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

Jesus Loves Me Black Hymnal No. 327 verse 1

Jesus Loves the Little Children George F. Root

FAITH FOCUS Marilyn Freeman

***all who are able may stand**

CALENDAR

Sunday, July 22, 2018

10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk W. Bruce, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Healing Service - Rev. Kirk W. Bruce, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Team 4, Social Hall

Monday, July 23, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Blast Off to Space Camp

Tuesday, July 24, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Blast Off to Space Camp

11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Cello Lessons, Adult Library

8:00 p.m. Fellowship of the Spirit Alcoholics Anonymous (FOTS AA), Heritage Room

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Blast Off to Space Camp

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Western Reserve Suzuki School - Cello Lessons, Adult Library

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

Thursday, July 26, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Blast Off to Space Camp

5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Donatoo's Night, State Rd. & Chestnut Blvd.

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Emotions Anonymous - Public Information Meeting, Heritage Room

Friday, July 27, 2018

12 Noon - 7 p.m. Bruce Family - Set-Up for Family Reunion, Heritage Room, Kitchen,
Social Hall

Saturday, July 28, 2018

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Bruce Family Reunion, Heritage Room, Kitchen, Social Hall

8:00 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous, Social Hall

Sunday, July 29, 2018

10:30 a.m. Worship Service - Rev. Kirk W. Bruce, Sanctuary

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour - Lemonade on the Lawn, Lawn West of Sanctuary

1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop #501 - Bridging Ceremony, Social Hall & Kitchen

Monday, July 30, 2018

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Absorbent Minds Montessori School - Fairy Tales Camp

TODAY – TODAY - TODAY

HEALING SERVICE at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary!

Stay for a meaningful service of healing! All are Welcome!



Affirmation of Faith

Black Hymnal

No. 886

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond measure.
You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Black Hymnal No. 886 Kurt Spenoso

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Jesus Wants Me For a Sunbeam* E.O. Excell
Ken Anderson, baritone & Kyle Kelvington, tenor

WE GIVE TO GOD

AN OFFERTORY INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY *I Love to Tell the Story* William G. Fischer
Ken Anderson, baritone

*THE DOXOLOGY (Red Hymnal) No. 515

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CALL TO PRAYER

The Wise Man Builds His House Upon the Rock Traditional Folk Song
The wise man built his house upon the rock, the wise man built his house upon the rock, the wise man built his house upon the rock, and the rains came tumbling down! The rains came down and the floods came up, the rains came down and the floods came up, the rains came down and the house on the rock stood firm.

THE MORNING PRAYER

*HYMN (Black Hymnal) *This Little Light of Mine* No. 524

GOD GIVES TO US

SCRIPTURES Matthew 10:5 - 17 (page 8) Kurt Spenoso
The B - I - B - L - E Traditional

SERMON *You are God's Creation! Now What?* Rev. Kirk W. Bruce

WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH SERVICE

*HYMN (Power Point) *I've Got the Joy Down in My Heart* George Cooke

*THE BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (We invite you to join hands as we sing)
I Will Make You Fishers of Men H. Clarke
I will make you fishers of men, fishers of men, fishers of men. I will make you fishers of men if you follow me, if you follow me, if you follow me. I will make you fishers of men if you follow me.

POSTLUDE *Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho* Spiritual
Ken Anderson, baritone (Congregation sings refrain)

SIGN-IN

There are worship pads on each pew in the sanctuary.
We joyfully welcome all visitors! Please join us again!
Please sign in to let us know you are worshipping with us today.
We are so glad You are Worshipping with Pilgrim United Church of Christ!

Pray for:

Jon Sandlin, recovering from heart surgery.
The Stanley family, the wife of Mitzi's brother, Kim and Kim's mom recovering from a car accident.
David Filing, with heart & kidney issues.
Polly Tucker, was a 4th grade Newberry & Dewitt teacher, having medical issues.
A member with a new health issue added to her chronic conditions. Help her to cope and not give up.
Our son, a father trapped in addiction. Pray for a miracle.
The children separated from their parents at our border.
Daughter-in-law with cancer, lymphoma, a mother of young children. Pray for healing and comfort for the family.
Marsha, a dear friend for over 40 years, and her struggle with mental illness.
A young couple in a broken marriage.
Jane and her family.
My nephew, to find comfort & solace in a difficult home life.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Back Pastor Kirk & Cheryl!

Thank you to Ken Anderson & Kyle Kelvington for your gift of music memories from our Sunday School & Vacation Bible School of our Youth!

Looking forward . . .

TODAY at 11:30 a.m. Healing Service, Sanctuary
July 29, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. Lemonade on the Lawn
August 12, 2018 The Great Summer Serve for Youth at Orwell UCC

An Invitation from Emotions Anonymous...

On July 26, 2018 at 7:45 pm, Akron's "Take It or Leave It" group of Emotions Anonymous, which meets on Thursday nights, will be celebrating its 31st anniversary with a Public Information meeting. Held at Pilgrim United Church of Christ, at the corner of Broad Blvd. & Second St. Two speakers will be sharing what their lives used to be like, what happened and what they are like now. Refreshments will be served. Please join us for this special celebration.

Celebrate summer with Pilgrim on July 29th!

Pilgrim will have a special Social Hour outside on the lawn after the service! Small tables with chairs will be set up for relaxing in the filtered sunshine and gentle morning breeze! Enjoy refreshing lemonades and small sandwiches and tasty treats. It's a great opportunity to invite a neighbor or friend to come to church with you!
This is a 5th Sunday, with no regular coffee hour sign up, so your help is appreciated to make this an enjoyable time for all! See a Council member, or leave a message with Kathie or Polly!

Picnic, Praise & Prayer

Join Marilyn in the parking lot at Lions Park, 641 Silver Lake Ave., for the next Picnic, Praise & Prayer on August 8th. We gather for lunch, bring a sack lunch or favorite fast food and bottled beverage and folding lawn chair. If someone just insists on bringing a dessert to share, we will not refuse it!
Devotions & Prayer will happen from 12:15 - 12:35 p.m. using the book, "Forty Days with the Holy Spirit: Fresh Air for Every Day," by Jack Levison.
If it rains, we will meet the following day. **See you in the park!**

Thank you to everyone who participated and donated to the . . .

Spirit of Service: Celebrating What Is Right In the World
July 17 - 19, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Faith Formation Board - Evelyn Ing, Mitzi Stanley & Marilyn Freeman, Director

And the power washing prep has begun for the **Exterior Painting Project!** The total cost is \$20,979.00. The first payment of \$7,000 has been paid. Contributions towards the "PAINT" project will decrease the amount of endowment funds needed to cover the cost.

Also, quotes have been received from three (3) of the five (5) vendors asked for the **patching, sealing** and **striping** of the **parking lot** before fall.
Thank You! *The Trustees*