



Order of Worship

December 28, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

First Sunday of Christmas

Welcome

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship this morning.
Hymnals and Bibles may be found under the pew in front of you.
The asterisk (*) in the order of worship indicates
when the congregation may stand.

Mission

Pilgrim Congregational Church is an independent community of Christian faith, which glorifies God through worship and service to others, respects individual spiritual growth, and inspires compassionate fellowship.

Vision

Pilgrim is the spiritual home of our community where all people are welcomed, known, and loved.

Rev. Dr. Patrick Horn, Senior Minister

Rev. Heather Miner, Associate Minister

600 N. Garey Avenue | Pomona, California 91767 | Call 909-622-1373
www.pilgrimchurchpomona.com

Need a Confidential Prayer?

Send your prayer request to the Band of Prayer
saintshedd@roadrunner.com

“All prayer requests are kept confidential”

Prelude

“Deck the Halls”
 “God Rest Ye Merry”
 “Oh, It’s You”
 Bruce Jones, organist

Mannheim
 Mannheim
 Jones

Hymn #218*

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

Welcome

Rev. Heather Miner

Parish Concerns

Rev. Miner

Call to Worship

Rev. Miner

Introit

“Surely the Presence of the Lord”

Lanny Wolfe

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
 I can feel the mighty power and His grace.
 I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
 I see glory on each face.
 Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; Amen

Invocation*

Mr. Jon Olson

God of life, we rejoice in Your love, which has filled creation from the beginning and which calls all life into being. We praise You for Jesus Christ, who reveals most fully Your loving purpose for all people. We bless You for Your Spirit, who draws all humanity into the circle of Your tender love. Gracious God, bless us with Your presence so that our worship and our lives may be a true celebration of Your love in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Gloria Patri*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Lesson One

John 1:1-5

Mr. Olson

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. (*New Revised Standard Version*)

Youth Message

“Light in the Darkness”

Rev. Miner and Mr. Olson

(The youth are invited to attend Sunday School following the Lord’s Prayer.)

** indicates when the congregation may stand*

The Lord's Prayer

Mr. Olson

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.

Anthem

"The Coventry Carol"

arr. Mark Hayes

Carolyn Wilson, mezzo-soprano

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
 Bye bye, lully, lullay.
 Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,
 Bye bye, lully, lullay.
 O sisters too, how may we do
 For to preserve this day
 This poor youngling for whom we sing,
 "Bye bye, lully, lullay"?

Herod the king, in his raging,
 Chargèd he hath this day
 His men of might in his own sight
 All young children to slay.
 That woe is me, poor child, for thee
 And ever mourn and may
 For thy parting neither say nor sing,
 "Bye bye, lully, lullay."

Pastoral Prayer and Silent Prayer

Rev. Miner

Prayer Response

"Amen"

Danish

Amen!

Offering

Mr. Olson

Offertory Solo:

"The Birds"

Benjamin Britten

Carolyn Wilson, mezzo-soprano

When Jesus Christ was four years old
 The angels brought Him toys of gold
 Which no man ever had bought or sold
 And yet with these He would not play
 He made him small fowl out of clay,
 And blessed them 'til they flew away

Tu creast; domine
 Jesus Christ, thou child so wise
 Bless mine hands and fill mine eyes.
 And bring my soul to paradise
 Lyrics by Hilaire Belloc

Doxology Hymn and Dedicatory Prayer *

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

Hymn #242*

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

GARTEN

**indicates when the congregation may stand*

Lesson Two

John 1:10-18

Mr. Olson

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. (*New Revised Standard Version*)

Sermon

"The Heart of God"

Rev. Miner

Hymn #240*

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

Benediction*

Rev. Miner

Congregational Response*

"God Be with You"

Hymn #672

God be with you till we meet again, By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you, God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

"Hark, The Herald Angels Dance"

Mannheim

Bruce Jones, organist

* *indicates when the congregation may stand*

A dark, atmospheric illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, a baby lies in a manger on a bed of straw, illuminated by a bright, divine light that forms a cross shape in the sky above. Mary is kneeling to the right of the manger, and Joseph stands behind it. To the left, a camel and an ox are visible, looking towards the infant. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a stable or cave setting.

A SAVIOR IS BORN

*Thank you for joining us today for worship service!
Please join us for fellowship following the service.*

Today's Theme: God came to earth

Color: White

Organists: Bruce Jones

Videographers: Bill Parnell, Andrew Olson and Dane Vose

Flower Dedications: This morning's flowers are thankfully provided: "In appreciation to ALL who have so generously dedicated their time, talents, and treasures this year to Pilgrim Congregational Church."

Boutonnieres: Boutonnieres for December are dedicated: To everyone who worships at Pilgrim Congregational Church during this holiday season: **"Happy Holidays!"**

Liturgical Notes by Dr. Patrick Horn: White symbolizes purity, innocence, and birth. It is associated with the brightness of the heavens during daytime and thus it was used to symbolize the purity of heaven and the angels. It also came to be associated with joy, celebration, and peace. White is the liturgical color of Christmas, Epiphany, and Easter.

Meeting & Event Reminders

9:00 am, Morning Devotional will resume on Monday, January 5th

Today

11:30 am, Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, December 30th

5:45 pm, Twilight Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, January 6th
(online and Minister's Office)

Wednesday, December 31st

4:30 pm – 9:00 pm, All Church Joyful Endeavors New Years Party

Thursday, January 1st

Happy New Year to you all! From Pilgrim Staff
Office will be closed

Tuesday, January 6th

10:00 am, Pilgrim Auxiliary Meeting and Lunch

Pilgrim Congregational Church...
where you are welcomed, known, and loved.