



## Did you know William Bradford...

One of the most famous of the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony was William Bradford, born in Yorkshire in 1589. As a teenaged orphan, he was influenced by William Brewster (the Separatist postmaster of the village of Scrooby), who was like a surrogate father to him.

The longest-serving governor of Plymouth Colony and its best-known historian, Bradford had joined the Separatist congregation at Scrooby and moved to the Netherlands with them in 1608 where he married Dorothy May. By 1620, Bradford was one of the leaders of the congregation who supported the planned journey to the New World.

He wrote, "They discussed the advantages and disadvantages of going to one of those vast and unpeopled countries of America. Although these countries were ... fruitful ... they had ...only savage brutish men who ranged up and down like wild beasts. ... Those who desired to move to America argued that all great and honorable actions are always accompanied with great difficulties. ... All of those difficulties ... might through the help of God ... be borne and overcome."

We now call our spiritual ancestors "the Pilgrims" because of these words from William Bradford, describing the departure from the Netherlands: "So they left that goodly and pleasant city which had been their resting place twelve years; but they knew they were pilgrims. ..."

## ...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism  
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# 400 YEARS OF *Faith* AMERICAN CONGREGATIONALISM SINCE 1620

## Call To Worship

**L:** We come to worship, celebrating 400 years since the landing of the Pilgrims.

**C:** They founded a life together based on faith in God and Christ's constant care.

**L:** They dared to rise up and create a country based entirely on leaning on God.

**C:** And so we come week after week, but especially this year thanking God for our life together as God's Pilgrim people.

## Invocation (in unison)

Almighty God, who was before all that is, who remains beside us, one who fills our lives with blessings, we celebrate this day the lives of the men and women known as Pilgrims. In Your singularity, they found commonness; in multiplicity of their world, they found diversity; in their chords and discords, they experienced a harmony in life. In their worship, they found strength and courage and hope. So may we worship You, knowing You expect the same from us. Amen

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