

 **MAYFLOWER**
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DECEMBER 15, 2019 • 10:30 AM



PRELUDE

“Silent Night” “Joy to the World”
arr. by Susan McDonald

Elizabeth Colpean, harp

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Mark Barger Elliott,
Senior Pastor

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Ruth Bell Olsson,
Pastoral Associate

Leader: Into our world as into Mary’s womb,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Into the forgotten places, as into the stable,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;
Into the lives of the powerful, bringing wisdom:
Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;
Into the lives of the wise, bringing discernment:
And into our lives and longings, whatever our station,

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

CHORAL INTROIT

Christman Choir (Grades 9-12)

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare. One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, That in course the flower may flourish.
People look East and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.

Leader: This is the good news: Christ is coming!

All: **Blessed are those who wait on the Lord.** ---Iona Community

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL #89 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
STUTTGART

*ADVENT UNISON PRAYER

Ruth Bell Olsson

**God of Gabriel, of birth and life, hear our prayer:
Like Mary, make us bold to question angels.
Like Mary, help us pray: Your will be done.
Like Mary, stir our hearts to ponder the events to come.
Like Mary, prepare us for the birth of Christ. Amen.**
---Thomas Troeger

*GLORIA PATRI #558

ANTHEM

"Away in a Manger"

Children's Choir (3&4 year olds)
Cantus Choir (Kindergarten)
Abby Brooks, Director
Mayflower Handbells

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lynn Barger Elliott,
Associate Pastor

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Invitation and Charge

Confession of Faith and Owning of the Covenant (read by new members)

I believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and covenant with this church to love the Lord with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength, and with all my mind; and to love my neighbor as myself. ~Based on Mark 12:30, 31

(The congregation will stand and read in unison)

We, the members of Mayflower Church, welcome you with joy into our communion and fellowship. We pledge to you our support, our help, and our prayers, that you may evermore increase in the knowledge and love of God. God grant that loving and being loved, blessing and being blessed, serving and being served, we may be prepared while we dwell together on earth for the perfect fellowship of the life everlasting.

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

CAROL

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
18th century Latin plainsong
arr. by John Rutter

Chapel and Christman Choirs,
(6-12 grades) and Chancel Choir,
Ben Clements, bass

O Come, O Come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thin own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell thy people save, And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, thou Key of David, come, And open wide our home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26–35, 38

Bill Dickinson

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL

"Gabriel's Message"
Basque carol
arr. by John Rutter

Chancel Choir,
Maria Molter, soprano

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All ahil," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favour'd lady," Gloria!
"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold.
Most highly favour'd lady," Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify His Holy Name."
Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!
Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

Ruth Bell Olsson

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

READING

Christmas Miracle

Lynn Barger Elliott
Associate Pastor

There are those who scoff at miracles.
I don't know what they make of the birth of the Child.
For that matter,
I don't know what they make of the birth of any child.

There are those who laugh at dreams,
so they've never heard an angel's voice,
nor seen any unusual light in the night's sky,
nor felt the yearning to set out in search
of new life.

There are those who do not see the Star.
I wonder where it is they go
when everyone else sets out for Bethlehem.
To those of us who believe,
into every night is born a Star. ---Ann Weems

CAROL

"Sans Day Carol"

*Cornish Traditional carol, arr. by John Rutter*Chapel, Christmas, and
Chancel Choirs

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus, all wrapped up in silk:

*And Mary bore Jesus our Saviour for to be,
And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.
Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!*

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red,
Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead:

READING

Ruth Bell Olsson

Cribb'd, cabined and confined within the contours of a human infant. The infinite defined by the finite? The Creator of all life thirsty and abandoned? Why would [God] do such a thing? Aren't there easier ways for God to redeem...fallen creatures? --- Madeleine L'Engle

CAROL

"Come Leave Your Sheep"

*French Carol, arr. by John Rutter*Chancel Choir
Anne Marie Church, soprano

Come leave your sheep, Your ewe with lambs afeeding,
O shepherds, hear Our message of good cheer;
No longer weep; The angel tidings heeding,
To Bethlehem hast away! Our Lord is born this happy day.

He lieth there With in a lowly manger;
An infant poor He languisheth full sore.
God's loving care Hath saved us all from danger
And brought us to his fold,
Now own His faithful love revealed of old.

Ye sages three Arrayed in royal splendor,
Your homage pay; a king is born this day.
The star ye see Its radiance must surrender
Before our Sun most bright;
Your gifts are precious in his sight.

Come Holy Ghost, Of blessings source eternal,
Our souls inspire With thy celestial fire;
The heav'nly host Praise Christ the Lord supernal
And sing the peace on earth God gives us by his holy birth

HOMILY

From Secular to Sacred

Mark Barger Elliott

CAROL

“Noel Nouvelet”

Chancel Choir

French carol, arr. by John Rutter

Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.
Offer thanks, ye faithful, to the news give ear.
Sing we nowell, a new King born today.
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

Eastern sages seek him, in the darkness drear,
By a star illumined shining forth so clear,
Guiding them to Bethlem far away.
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

Unto humble shepherd came the angel near;
“Hence” said he “to Bethlem, be ye of good cheer.
Seek there the lamb of God, love’s own pure ray.”
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

Now doth our Saviour Jesus Christ appear,
Bringing salvation promised many a year
By his redeeming blood this happy day
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

When to Bethlehem they came in lowly fear,
Found they gentle Mary with her son so dear.
Heav’n’s mighty Lord all cradled in the hay,
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY CAROL

“The Infant King”

Chancel Choir

Basque Noel, arr. by John Rutter

Rachel Petty, soprano

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby, now reclining,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Angels are watching, stars are shining
Over the place where he is lying.
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby, now a-dozing,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing,
Then in the grave at last reposing:
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping,
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Soon will come sorrow with the morning,
Soon will come bitter grief and weeping:
Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby!
Lullaby! is the babe a-waking?
Sing lullaby!
Hush, do not stir the Infant King.
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning,
Conquering Death, its bondage breaking:
Sing lullaby!

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lynn Barger Elliott

*RECESSIONAL HYMN #121

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Blessed are you, O God, fountain of creation, for you are not a God far-off, but God-with-us. May our hearts open to you, that we, like Mary, may give birth to holy love in this world, in this season and always, through the power of Christ Jesus and your Spirit, now and unto all ages of ages. Amen.

---Susan Palo Cherwien

POSTLUDE

“Unto Us Is Born a Son”

arr. by Christopher Tambling

**All who are able are invited to stand.*

The Mayflower Chapel and Christman Choirs, Joshua Ledesma, director
Chancel Choir and members of the Grand Rapids Symphony

Scott Bosscher, conductor

Dr. Julia Brown, organist

Flute: Jill Brown and Carmen Maret

Oboe: Ellen Sherman and Kathleen Gomez

Harp: Elizabeth Colpean

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our patrons

Edith I. Blodgett Legacy Fund of the Brookby Foundation and Judy Evert Memorial Fund: Guest musicians

Quentin R Van Dore Memorial Fund: Instrumental score rental and purchase

Calvin University Library: loan of choral scores

WELCOME! Hearing assistance is available on the main floor by using the T-switch on your hearing aid. Handheld receivers with earphones are also available from the ushers.



SEARCH: "Mark Barger Elliott" on Apple Podcasts
"Mayflower Congregational Church" on Facebook



WEBSITE: MayflowerChurch.org • **CHURCH OFFICE:** 616-459-6255
QUESTIONS: Pastor Mark Barger Elliott, mbe@mayflowerchurch.org



ADVENT ORGAN RECITALS 6:30pm

Dec 16 Rhonda Sider Edgington

Dec 23 Axelle Pringalle Pelfrêne, alto
Julia Brown, organ

The Call of Christmas at MAYFLOWER

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00pm Family Pageant Service

7:30pm Service of Lessons and Carols

11:00pm Candlelight Service

MAYFLOWER

News + Events

December 15, 2019

ADVENT ALIVE — ALL THE JOY OF THE SEASON



HELP FUND 2019

As year-end approaches we invite you to fully fund our 2019 budget with one-time gifts, pledges, or above-and-beyond pledges as expressions of gratitude for the blessings we have received from God this past year.

In December, Mayflower typically receives financial gifts of approximately \$195,000 and we invite you to help us reach that goal this year in order to balance our budget.

Donations can be made via check, online through your credit card, or as gifts of stocks and securities.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can also be made to satisfy your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Consult your tax advisor for further details.

If you have any questions about how you can support Mayflower's mission and ministries please contact our business manager, Lou Bardocz at LLB@mayflowerchurch.org. **Thank you!**

COMING IN JANUARY 2020!

READS

Mayflower Book Club in 2020!

Our first church-wide book selection will be ***Man's Search for Meaning*** by Viktor Frankl. Our conversation will begin Jan. 12 after worship 11:45am-12:30pm.

RETREATS

Women's Retreat Jan. 24-25!

Begin the new year together exploring the theme: **"The Joy of Missing Out: Live More By Doing Less!"** We will stay at the Courtyard Marriott in downtown Holland Jan 24 (6:00pm)-Jan 25 (noon) and enjoy learning, shopping and eating together! \$100 for a double occupancy room! Contact Lynn Barger Elliott to reserve your spot!

NOTES FOR REFLECTIONS DURING WORSHIP

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Axelle Pringalle
Pelfrêne and family

Kathleen Heyboer and
family

George Bauer and
family

Van Timmeren family

Matt Fouch

Marilyn DeHorn

Thora White

Rocky Rosema

Laurie Wood-Lyons

David and Michelle
Wolf

Susie Williams

Tolly Stiffler

Tony Brace

David Keyser

Sue Ellyn Andrews

Virginia Vogel

Dale Bensted

Marcia and Jim DePree

Chip Wood

Leanne Reilly

Fran and Les

Sophia Minnavino

April Baker

Betty and Joel Soule

Dorothy Britcher

Debbie Haley

Lylah Gritter

Anne Hooker

Jen Kaczor

Gina VanderKolk

Jon

Jean Norris Miller

Phil Battershall

Dick Bellows

Bill Petchauer

Rick Congdon

Joan Fleser

Sander

Brenda Allen

Jon King