

MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

COMMUNION SUNDAY

April 7, 2024 - 10:30am



WE BELIEVE: Faith is a journey, God is good, Jesus saves, and the Spirit leads us to faith, hope, and love as we honor the dignity of all God's people.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Indicates *please stand if you are able*.

Bolded text or music score indicates congregational response.

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew. Prayer request cards may be placed in the offering and will be added to our prayer list.

As you enter the sanctuary, we invite you to prepare your hearts for worship.

PRELUDE *Variations on O Filii et Filiae* (O Sons and Daughters) Dr. Julia Brown
by Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738)

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE CHURCH Rev. Steve Armfield

PASSING OF THE PEACE* Rev. Armfield

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

INTROIT *I Was Glad* Chancel Choir
by Larry Visser

I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)

CALL TO WORSHIP Ingrid Nelson

Leader: I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Living God.

People: This is the day when we rejoice in God's act of creation.

Leader: This is our sabbath, when we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

People: We give thanks that once more, God has brought us together, that we might refresh one another.

Leader: Peace to all who enter here, peace this day and every day, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN 537*

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

Ingrid Nelson

God of resurrection power, break through the locked doors of our certainty to encourage our wonderings and our questions. Break through the walls of our fears of other, that we might make room for all at your table. Break through our doubt and confusion, that we might come to know your presence more fully in our lives and in our world. When we seek to judge ourselves and others for disbelief and questions, open the locked doors of our hearts and give us the patience of the risen Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF GRACE*

Rev. Armfield

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.**

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:19-34

Ingrid Nelson

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 768

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

It's Just So Hard to Believe It

Rev. Armfield

HYMN 53*

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

DUNDEE

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

This is the Day

Chancel Choir

by John Rutter

This is the day which the Lord hath made: we will rejoice and be glad in it.

O praise the Lord of heav'n: praise him in the height.

Praise him, all ye angels of his: praise him, all his host.

Praise him sun and moon: praise him. All ye stars and light, let them praise the Name of the Lord

For he shall give his angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways.

The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;

So that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in: from this time forth for evermore.

He shall defend thee under his wings.

Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord.

(words from Psalms 118, 148, 91, 121 and 27)

DOXOLOGY*

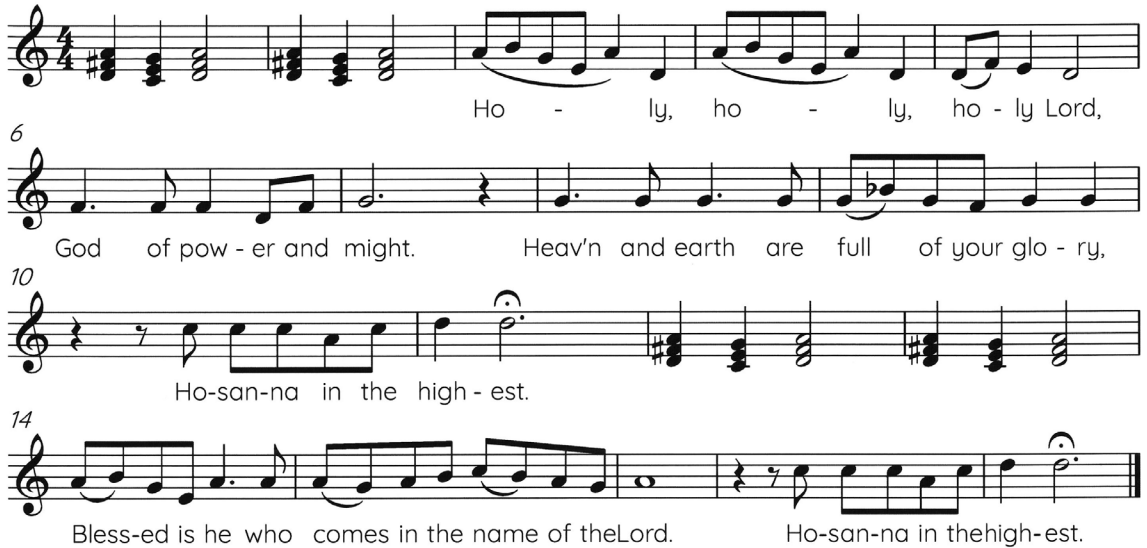
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Armfield and Rev. Eric Britcher

(Our sacramental elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
6 God of pow - er and might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,
10 Ho-san-na in the high - est.
14 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into the dead; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION



Music: William Mathias, © 1976, Oxford University Press. Used by permission OneLicense #729334-A

SHARING COMMUNION

COMMUNION ANTHEM *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* Chancel Choir
by Bob Chilcott

Words may be found in the Hymnal #170

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

HYMN 265* *Lord of All Hopefulness* SLANE

BENEDICTION* Rev. Armfield

DISMISSAL*

Leader: To wherever God has called you this week, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Amen! We go forth in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *O Filii et Filiae* (O Sons and Daughters) Dr. Brown
by Hendrik Andriessen (1892-1981)

WELCOME! We are so glad you joined us today!

WELCOME! If this is your first time worshiping with us, please stop by the Welcome Center in the narthex outside the sanctuary if you have questions about our church. You are invited to join us after the service for refreshments and fellowship in the atrium.

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.

NURSERY is available for children birth through 3 years. Please sign your child(ren) in prior to the service and receive a pager if needed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will resume next week. Quiet boxes are available for children at the back of the sanctuary.

Announcements for April 7, 2024

Mayflower news and details on upcoming events.

April 14 | Rev. Eric Britcher, preaching

**April 21 | Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, preaching
Helen Bellows Sunday**



2025 COMMITTEE/COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is collecting committee/council nominations for 2025. Brief descriptions are listed on the following page, more detailed descriptions are available at the welcome table. Starting April 14, nominations will be accepted by filling out the pew card, completing the Google form on our website (mayflowerchurch.org), or contacting the church office ([616-459-6255](tel:616-459-6255)).

NEW MEMBER CLASS: APRIL 21, 9AM

Are you interested in joining Mayflower? Rev. Steve Armfield will be leading a new members class titled, "The Four 'Als'." In this 4-week series, you'll learn more about what it means to join Mayflower. New members will be introduced on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

MUSIC WITH MISS ABBY

Join "Music with Miss Abby" from 4:30-5pm on Sunday evenings April 14 - May 12.

COLLEGE ESSAY WRITING WORKSHOP:

APRIL 18, 6-7PM

Caitlin Volovlek, retired English teacher, knows that the right questions, high expectations, and personal attention can transform the stressful application process. Her passion is guiding seniors to craft meaningful and memorable college entrance essays.

ART CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN:

JUNE 10-13, 9AM-12PM

Rising Kindergartners through 5th graders are invited to Mayflower Art Camp. Registration cost is \$50. mayflowerchurch.org/artcamp

YOUTH DINNER AND TALENT SHOW:

APRIL 21, 5PM

All are invited to be a part of this fun evening! The many talents of the children and youth of Mayflower will be on stage while we share a meal (\$5/ea) and fellowship. For more information or to RSVP contact Abby (abby@mayflowerchurch.org).

PRISCILLA CIRCLE BAKE SALE: APRIL 28

EVERYONE is invited to donate baked goods for the sale, proceeds from the sale will go towards the purchase of new soil for the Atrium. On 4/28, bring your baked goods to the tables in the Atrium before the service.

LADIES' LUNCHEON UPDATE

The monthly ladies' luncheon has been postponed until further notice due to Maris Rosema's health.

MAYFLOWERCHURCH.ORG

Check out the updated Mayflower website! It has been improved with a more fluid interface and new photos.

Committee Descriptions

*Mayflower Committees are listed below followed by the purpose of each.
Please read through these as you consider your nominations for 2025.*

Christian Outreach Committee

To facilitate outreach in our community through word, deed, and resources.

Congregational Care Committee

To provide care to members beyond what staff provide.

Congregational Events Committee

To develop, organize, and lead social events for the congregation.

Council

Responsible for the overall operation, spiritual life, and financial health of the church – an honor to serve and be part of your church's future.

Endowment Trust Board of Trustees

The Mayflower Endowment Fund is a separate entity established by MCC. It is governed by a formal Trust Agreement which states as its purpose.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the Council between Council meetings. The Executive Committee shall advise the Council and the Senior Minister on all church personnel matters, and provide advice, wisdom, and support to the Moderator and Senior Pastor.

House and Grounds Committee

To maintain the church building and grounds in proper working order and aesthetically pleasing shape while meeting safety, security and stewardship goals.

Nominating Committee

To recruit Council members including Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Treasurer Committee members; and Committee chairs. To recruit search committees, and other specially formed committees as required.

Personnel Committee

To provide direction and decision making to Council for employee policies, compensation and benefits, legal compliance, performance management and staff training.

Safety Committee

Work with staff to provide support of safety/security policies and procedures to protect MCC members and building partners.

Worship and Music Committee

Worship is a unifying event in the life of this congregation. It is the one time each week when all members join in common purpose. The purpose of this committee is to coordinate various aspects of the worshipping life of the church fostering and supporting active, vital worship, and support concerts and other music outreach.

Youth Committee

To support the children and youth ministries and the Mayflower staff who lead them.

This Week

What's happening at Mayflower this week

Sunday, April 7

- 10:30am Communion Sunday
Rev. Armfield, preaching

Monday, April 8

- 7:30am Men's Bible Study
- 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 5pm Men's Bible Study
- 5pm Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, April 9

- 10am Needlepoint
- 10am Worship Planning Mtg
- 10:30am Men's Bible Study

Wednesday, April 10

- 6pm Handbell rehearsal
- 7pm Al-Anon
- 7:30 Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, April 11

- 9:45am Women's City Club
- 10am Women's Bible Study
- 6pm Boy Scouts

Friday, April 12

- 7am Men's Bible Study

Saturday, April 13

- 6pm Salvation Army Concert

Sunday, April 14

- 10:30am Worship
Eric Britcher, preaching
- 4:30pm Music w/Miss Abby

Looking Ahead

Upcoming dates to note

APRIL

- 14** Morning Worship | 10:30am
Music with Miss Abby | 4:30pm
- 17** Deacon's Mtg | 9:30am
- 18** College Essay Wksp | 6pm
- 21** New Members Class | 9am
Helen Bellows Sunday | 10:30am
Music with Miss Abby | 4:30pm
Youth Dinner/Talent Show | 5pm
- 23** Council Mtg | 6:30pm
- 28** New Members Class | 9am
Senior Sunday | 10:30am
Priscilla Circle Bake Sale
Music with Miss Abby | 4:30pm

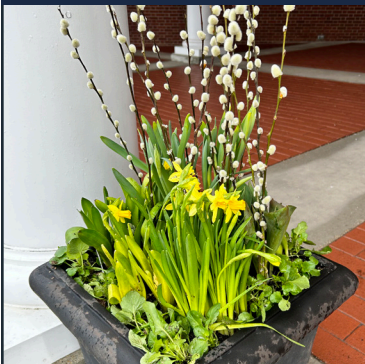
MAY

- 5** New Members Class | 9am
Morning Worship | 10:30am
Scout's Derby | 4:00pm
Music with Miss Abby | 4:30pm
- 12** Mothers' Day
Music with Miss Abby | 4:30pm
- 13** Baroque Concert | 7pm
- 18** GR Choir of Men and Boys | 7pm
- 19** New Members Class | 9am
Pentecost Sunday | 10:30am
GR Choir of Men and Boys | 3pm
- 26** Morning Worship | 10:30am
- 27** Memorial Day | Office Closed
- 28** Council Mtg | 6:30pm

Midweek



Thank you, Jean Smith & Karen Roth, for the beautiful spring porch pots!



Moms' Night Out at Bobcat Bonnie's



Mayflower Council

not pictured: Martin Grin



Rachel Blair



Anne-Marie Church



Amy Conway



Susan Orban



Dan Poortenga



John Schneider



Kateri Schutt



Patti Sienstra



Courtney Weiler



Kris Wilson



Kathy Wynsma



Christopher Yates

COLLEGE ESSAY WRITING WORKSHOP

Thursday | April 18 | 6-7pm



Caitlin Volovlek

As a respected and experienced English teacher for 25 years, Caitlin Volovlek knows that the right questions, high expectations, and personal attention can transform the stressful application process. Her passion is guiding seniors to craft meaningful and memorable college entrance essays.

Please join Caitlin as she shares her expertise and inspires your senior to begin the essay process with confidence!

Reach out to Rachael Cooley at rachael@mayflowerchurch.org with any questions.

Praises and Prayers

Week of April 7, 2024

If you would like to receive, or make note of someone to be added to the weekly Prayer List, please contact the church office to be included on the list (616.459.6255 or office@mayflowerchurch.org.) Prayer Cards are also in the pews and collected during Sunday morning services.

PRAISE FOR THOSE WHO CELEBRATE

We join with the **McKelvey family** in praise for the baptisms of their three children. (3/24)

We celebrate with the families of the seven youth who made confirmation on March 17. (3/17)

PRAY FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Maris Rosema has been hospitalized with serious pulmonary issues. She welcomes prayers for healing. (3/21)

Pray for **Carol VerMeulen** as she begins radiation therapy. (3/12)

Pray for **Bill Potts** who is in rehab. (3/12)

Please pray that God may continue to walk with **Mayflower Church**, and guide us all on our journey of faith.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Bill Currie's son, Ryan Currie, passed suddenly in a bicycle accident. Our prayers are with Bill and his family. (3/21)

Please pray for the family of **Ron Shippy** who passed away March 8. (3/12)

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

We pray for peace and safety in the world amid ongoing turmoil, specifically in Haiti, Gaza, and Ukraine.



**Come before church
or stay after to enjoy a
cup of coffee, cookies
and fellowship.**

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS



Scan the QR Code with your phone to give/pay directly through E-Zekiel: no sign-up required.

Download the app and create an account for future secure scan-and-go transactions.



TEXT TO GIVE

On your phone, simply text the word: GIVE To: 16163446255 (no spaces) and then follow the prompts.

MAYFLOWER PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Supporting the church and our community through gifts of fundraising and hospitality.

To learn more contact
Shari Graham at
shari.graham@comcast.net



SUNDAY, April 28
following worship

Spring Bake Sale

HOSTED BY PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Everyone is invited to make and bake your best recipes! Please bring your donated baked goods to the Atrium prior to the Sunday service.

Proceeds will go towards the purchase of new soil for the Atrium and the ministry of Priscilla Circle. Donations for baked goods can be made by cash, check, or Ezekiel app.

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2345 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506
616-459-6255 www.MayflowerChurch.org

Rev. Steve Armfield, Pastor | Rev. Eric Britcher, Pastor

Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music and Organist

Scott Bosscher, Chancel Choir Director | Abby Brooks, Director of Children's Choirs

Melia Colwell, Children's Choir Accompanist

Rachael Cooley, Interim Executive Administrator | Murry Idema, Director of Congregational Care

Amy Dunham, Office Manager | Andy Ely, Business Manager

Kristen Van Stee, Communications Coordinator

Jon Lang, Facility Manager | Jana DeShane, Custodial Services

Lift High the Cross

537

George William Kitchin, 1827–1912 and
Michael Robert Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

Sydney Hugo Nicholson, 1875–1947

Refrain *Unison*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim till

all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

Verses *Harmony*

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol-low this tri-um-phant sign. The
2. Each new-born ser-vant of the Cru-ci-fied Bears
3. O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree, As
4. So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be: Praise

D.C.

hosts of God in u-ni-ty com-bine.
on the brow the seal of Him who died.
Thou hast prom-ised, draw the world to Thee.
to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry!

CRUCIFER
10.10 with Refrain

THE TRIUNE GOD

for His mer - cy's sake, In paths of truth and grace.
 bless - ings o - ver - flows, Your oil a - noints my head.
 stran - ger, or a guest, But like a child at home.

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

53

William Cowper, 1731-1800

Scottish Psalter, 1615

1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way His
 2. Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The
 3. Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But
 4. Blind un - be - lief is sure to err, And

won - ders to per - form; He plants His foot - steps
 clouds ye so much dread Are big with mer - cy,
 trust Him for His grace; Be - hind a frown - ing
 scan His work in vain; God is His own in -

in the sea And rides up - on the storm.
 and shall break In bless - ings on your head.
 prov - i - dence He hides a smil - ing face.
 ter - pret - er, And He will make it plain. A - men.

"He," "Him," or "His" may be replaced by "God(s)" or "You(r)."

DUNDEE
 CM

GOD'S REVELATION

265

Lord of All Hopefulness

Jan Struther, 1901–1953

Traditional Irish Melody
Harm. by David Evans, 1874–1948

Unison

1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, Whose
2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith, Whose
3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, Your
4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm, Whose

trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy, Be
strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, Be
hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace, Be
voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm, Be

there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray, Your
there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray, Your
there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray, Your
there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray, Your

bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day. A - men.