

# MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 14, 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

*Largo from Trio Sonata in C Major BWV 529*  
by J.S. Bach

Caron Farmer,  
guest organist

## WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE\*

Rev. Eric Britcher

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

**Response: And also with you.**

## NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Rachael Cooley

## INTROIT

*I Was Glad*  
by Larry Visser

Chancel Choir

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

## CALL TO WORSHIP

David Blair

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**People: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Leader: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

**People: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**

Leader: Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

**People: AMEN!**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN 203\* *Thine is the Glory*

JUDAS MACCABEUS

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*

Wondrous God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own life. Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON\*

Rev. Britcher

## 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.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rachael Cooley

## CHILDREN'S BLESSING (sung by all)

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong, They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:36-48  
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 749

David Blair

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

*The Joy of Feasting on Broiled Fish!*

Rev. Britcher

## HYMN 415\*

*Search Me, O God*

MAORI MELODY

## CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Britcher

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Ain't a That Good News*  
by Dawson

Chancel Choir

I got a crown up in-a the Kingdom, Ain'a that good news!  
I'm a-goin' to lay down this world, Goin'a shoulder up my cross,  
Goin'a take it home-a to my Jesus, Ain'a that good news!  
I got a Savior in-a the Kingdom...  
I got a harp up in-a the Kingdom...

## 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.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION\*

David Blair

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Rev. Britcher

## CALL TO PRAYER

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

5  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu-ia!

The second system of musical notation starts with a measure rest labeled '5'. It continues with two staves in the same key signature and time signature as the first system. The melody continues with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Words and music © 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., used by permission OneLicense #72933-A

## 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 200\*

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices*

REGENT SQUARE

## BENEDICTION\*

## 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!

cover image taken from biblia.com

## 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** for children age 4 through 5th grade meet during the service following the Children's Message in the lower-level Youth Rooms. Children are asked to bring their Bibles. We will share "highs and lows" from the week, play Bible trivia, sing, have a Bible story lesson, and engage in a related activity.

# 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](mailto:rachael@mayflowerchurch.org) with any questions.

# Announcements for April 14, 2024

Mayflower news and details on upcoming events.

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

**April 28 | Rev. Steve Armfield, preaching  
Senior Sunday**

**May 5 | Communion 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](http://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 A's* (missional, relational, Biblical, and spiritual). 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 STARTS TONIGHT**

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

## **MAYFLOWERCHURCH.ORG**

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

## **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.

## **YOUTH DINNER & 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](mailto: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.

# 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**

Facilitates outreach in our community through word, deed, and resources.

## **Congregational Care Committee**

Oversees sending cards to those on the prayer list, brings meals to those in need, welcomes babies, and gets volunteers for cookies and greeters for the Sunday coffee reception.

## **Congregational Events Committee**

Develops, organizes, and leads social events.

## **Council**

Responsible for the overall operation, spiritual life, and financial health of the church.

## **Endowment Trust Board of Trustees**

Oversees the Mayflower Endowment Fund, which is a separate entity established by MCC and is governed by a formal Trust Agreement.

## **Executive Committee**

Acts on behalf of the Council between Council meetings. Advises the Council and the Senior Minister on all church personnel matters, and provides advice, wisdom, and support to the Moderator and Senior Pastor.

## **House and Grounds Committee**

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

## **Nominating Committee**

Recruits Council members and committee members and any other special committees as required.

## **Personnel Committee**

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

## **Worship and Music Committee**

Coordinates various aspects of the worshipping life of the church fostering and supporting active, vital worship, and supports concerts and other music outreach.

## **Youth Committee**

Supports the children and youth ministries and the Mayflower staff who lead them.

# This Week

*What's happening at Mayflower this week*

## Sunday, April 14

- 10:30am Rev. Britcher, preaching
- 4:30pm Music with Miss Abby

## Monday, April 15

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

## Tuesday, April 16

- 10am Needlepoint
- 10am Worship Planning Mtg
- 10:30am Men's Bible Study
- 4pm Worship and Music Committee Mtg
- 7pm Outreach Committee Mtg

## Wednesday, April 17

- 9:30am Deacon's Mtg
- 6pm Handbell rehearsal
- 7pm Al-Anon
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

## Thursday, April 18

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

## Friday, April 19

- 7am Men's Bible Study
- 5pm Netherlands Reformed Church Concert

# Looking Ahead

*Upcoming dates to note*

## APRIL

- 21** New Members Class | 9am  
Helen Bellows Sunday | 10:30am  
\*Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, preaching  
Music with Miss Abby | 4:30pm  
Youth Dinner/Talent Show | 5pm
- 23** Council Mtg | 6:30pm
- 24** Sisters of Faith | 10am
- 28** New Members Class | 9am  
Senior Sunday | 10:30am  
\*Rev. Steve Armfield, preaching  
Priscilla Circle Bake Sale  
Music with Miss Abby | 4:30pm

## MAY

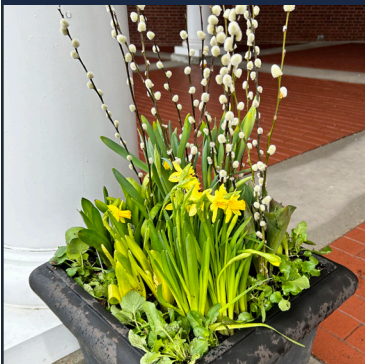
- 1** Priscilla Circle luncheon (Atrium) | 12pm
- 5** New Members Class | 9am  
Morning Worship | 10:30am  
Scout's Derby | 4:00pm  
Music with Miss Abby | 4:30pm
- 12** Mothers' Day  
Morning Worship | 10:30am  
\*Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, preaching  
Music with Miss Abby | 4:30pm
- 13** Baroque Concert | 7pm
- 18** GR Choir of Men and Boys | 7pm
- 19** New Members Class | 9am  
Pentecost Sunday | 10:30am  
\*Rev. Steve Armfield, preaching  
GR Choir of Men and Boys | 3pm
- 26** Morning Worship | 10:30am  
\*Rev. Eric Britcher, preaching
- 27** Memorial Day | Office Closed
- 28** Council Mtg | 6:30pm



## Midweek



Thank you, Jean Smith 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



Patty Sienstra



Courtney Weiler



Kris Wilson



Kathy Wynsma



Christopher Yates

# YOUTH DINNER & TALENT SHOW

Sunday | April 21 | 5pm | Atrium

**\$5/PERSON**  
(for dinner)



Parents, grandparents, friends and members of the congregation 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 and fellowship.

For more information or to RSVP contact Abby at [abby@mayflowerchurch.org](mailto:abby@mayflowerchurch.org).

# Praises and Prayers

Week of April 14, 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

Pray for **Bill Potts** who is recovering from surgery. (4/4)

Please pray for **Lizann Donley** who is experiencing severe pain due to a compression fracture in her back. (4/3)

**Marcia Oetting** is now at home, recovering from a mini stroke. Pray for continued rapid improvement. (4/3)

**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)

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

## PRAY FOR FRIENDS OF MAYFLOWER

Pray for **Paula Gaylord** who is struggling with health issues. (4/11)

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.MayflowerChurch.org)

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

THE TRIUNE GOD

203

Thine Is the Glory

Edmond L. Budry, 1854-1932  
Trans. by R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759

1. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con - qu'ring Son;  
2. Lo! Je - sus meets thee, Ris - en from the tomb;  
3. No more we doubt Thee, Glo - rious Prince of life!

End - less is the vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won.  
Lov - ing - ly He greets thee, Scat - ters fear and gloom;  
Life is nought with - out Thee; Aid us in our strife;

An - gels in bright rai - ment Rolled the stone a - way,  
Let His church with glad - ness Hymns of tri - umph sing,  
Make us more than con - qu'rors, Through Thy death - less love;

Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes Where Thy bod - y lay.  
For her Lord now liv - eth; Death hath lost its sting.  
Bring us safe through Jor - dan To Thy home a - bove.

JUDAS MACCABEUS  
5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5 with Refrain

## THE TRIUNE GOD

Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con - qu'ring Son;  
End-less is the vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for two systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con - qu'ring Son;' and 'End-less is the vic - t'ry Thou o'er death hast won. A - men.' The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in both hands.

Dear Lord,  
Your heavens declare Your glory.  
Sunrise gives promise of newness from old,  
the moon, promise of light in our darkness;  
the song of the birds breaks lonely silence.  
May we as Your people show forth Your glory  
by examples of new life from old,  
light in the darkness for both friends and foes.  
May all of our words break the silence  
between You and the world.  
May we help the world say,  
"Your Church declares Your glory."  
With the power of Christ and in His name.  
Amen.

Rev. William Rafuse

Search Me, O God

415

Psalm 139:23  
James Edwin Orr, 1912-1987

Maori Melody  
Arr. by Robert F. Douglas, 1941-

1. Search me, O God, and know my heart to - day;  
2. I praise Thee, Lord, for cleans - ing me from sin:  
3. Lord, take my life, and make it whol - ly Thine;  
4. O Ho - ly Ghost, re - viv - al comes from Thee:

Try me, O Sav - ior, know my thoughts, I pray:  
Full - fill Thy Word, and make me pure with - in;  
Fill my poor heart with Thy great love di - vine;  
Send a re - viv - al start the work in me:

See if there be some wick - ed way in me:  
Fill me with fire, where once I burned with shame:  
Take all my will, my pas - sion, self and pride;  
Thy Word de - clares Thou wilt sup - ply our need:

Cleanse me from ev - 'ry sin and set me free.  
Grant my de - sire to mag - ni - fy Thy name.  
I now sur - ren - der: Lord, in me a - bide.  
For bless - ing now, O Lord, I hum - bly plead.

MAORI MELODY  
10.10.10.10

## Easter People, Raise Your Voices

200

William M. James, 1915-

Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

1. Eas - ter peo - ple, raise your voic - es, Sounds of heav'n in  
 2. Fear of death can no more stop us From our press - ing  
 3. Ev - 'ry day to us is Eas - ter, With its res - ur -

earth should ring. Christ has brought us heav - en's choic - es;  
 here be - low. For our Lord em - pow - ered us to  
 rec - tion song. When in trou - ble move the fast - er

Heav'n - ly mu - sic, let it ring. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Tri - umph o - ver ev - 'ry foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 To our God who rights the wrong. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter peo - ple, let us sing.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! On to vic - t'ry now we go.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! See the pow'r of heav'n - ly throngs.

REGENT SQUARE  
8.7.8.7.8.7