

MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 28, 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

Intrada
by John Ireland (1879-1962)

Dr. Julia Brown

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE*

Rev. Steve Armfield

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

Ben Ruppert

Leader: Living God, Root of Life, we grow and blossom from your heart.

People: All are the river; we are your flowing.

Leader: Loving Christ, Flowering of Love, we give thanks for the beauty of your grace.

People: You are the vine; we are your branches.

Leader: Holy Spirit, Fire of God, your love burns in us, and shines into the world.

People: We are your candle; you are the flame. We belong to you; we worship you; we serve you. Alleluia!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 35* *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

ROYAL OAK

OPENING PRAYER*

Charlie Seufert

Leader: O Lord, the poet asks, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"

People: We answer; show us where you would want us to go, O Lord.

Leader: The prophet asks, "What does the Lord require of you?"

People: We answer; to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.

Leader: As a congregation and as disciples, help us, we pray, to step forward in faith

People: Reveal to us where you would have us go. So we might serve the world in faith, hope and love.

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.

RECOGNITION OF SENIORS

ANTHEM

Go In Love
by James Colver

Children and Youth Choirs

Go in love, fear not the dark night. Go in love, take with you God's light.
Go in love, may your love shine bright. Go in love.

Live in love, feel still a warm glow. Live in love, in you will joy flow.
Live in love, cause life to be so. Live in love. 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

John 15:1-8
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 764
I John 4:7-21
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 863

Rehn Oosterman

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Keep Growing

Rev. Armfield

HYMN 210*

Now the Green Blade Riseth

FRENCH CAROL

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Armfield

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Greater Love
by John Ireland

Chancel Choir
Erin Gilbert, soprano
Ryan Potts, tenor

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death.

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.

Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation;

that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies, a living sacrifice,
holy, acceptable unto God, which is your honorable service.

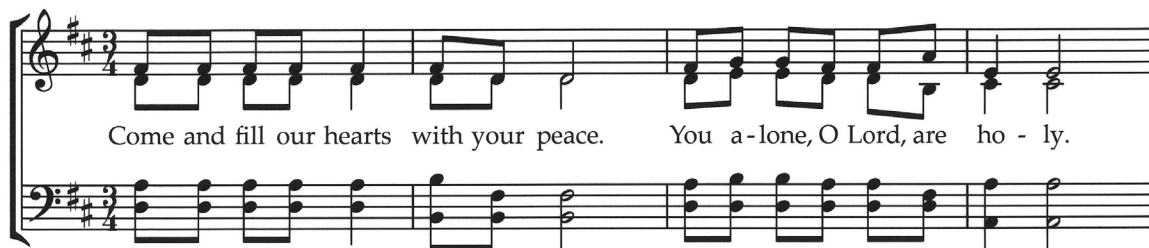
DOXOLOGY*

**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*

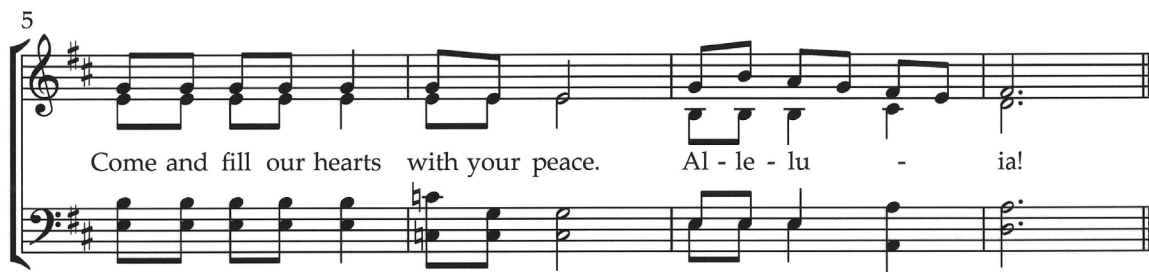
Rev. Armfield

CALL TO PRAYER



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

5



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

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CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Rev. Armfield

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 34*

Let All Things Now Living

ASH GROVE

A BENEDICTION FOR OUR GRADUATES*

Rev. Armfield

Now may our God, the source of light,
place a loving hand upon our graduates as we send them forward.
With their classes now complete, may they strive toward excellence in all they do.
May they discern what is the best, may they work for peace and justice in the world.
May they find joy in future endeavors and adventures.
May their achievements grow and enrich their communities.
May they discover peace and wholeness in the midst of life's blessings and challenges.
In the name of the Creator, the Savior and the Living Spirit. Amen.

DISMISSAL*

Rev. Armfield

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

Allegro

Dr. Brown

by Thomas Arne (1710-1778)

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.

Announcements for April 28, 2024

Mayflower news and details on upcoming events.

May 5 | Communion Sunday
Rev. Adam Lipscomb, preaching

May 12 | Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, preaching

May 19 | Pentecost Sunday
Rev. Steve Armfield, preaching



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. 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).

MUSIC WITH MISS ABBY TONIGHT

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

PRISCILLA CIRCLE BAKE SALE: TODAY

Join us in the Atrium following the service today. 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.

PRAYER RETREAT FOR RECONCILIATION AND HEALING: MAY 8, 5:30PM

You’re invited to a ‘Prayer Retreat for Reconciliation and Healing’ on Wednesday, May 8, 5:30pm-8pm, led by Rev. Steve Armfield and Rev. Eric Britcher. For additional information, please contact Murry Idema (murry@mayflowerchurch.org) or Patty Sienstra (psienstra@gmail.com).

MAYFLOWER “COOKIEBOOK” SALE: MAY 12

Are you looking for some new recipes for treats? On May 12, the Coffee Reception Team will be selling their “Cookiebook”, full of delicious recipes from the Mayflower Church family. Proceeds from this sale will go toward future coffee receptions.

BAROQUE IN THE ATRIUM WITH DUO TARASQUE & FRIENDS: MAY 13, 7PM

We welcome Luce Burrell, theorbo and Howell Petty, soprano along with Grace Kim, violin; Andrew Laven, cello; and Julia Brown, organ performing music of Telemann, Biber, Purcell and more.

MAYFLOWER ANNUAL MEETING: JUNE 9

Members of the congregation are invited to the annual meeting following the worship service on June 9, where we will vote on new leadership and approve the budget.

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.

Finance Committee

Provides financial oversight of Church finances, develop the annual budget, monitor actual results and recommends needed adjustments to the budget to Council to keep MCC financially viable.

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.

Membership Committee

Supports current members of the church and actively works to promote the ministries of Mayflower to Sunday visitors and guests.

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 28

- 9am New Members Class
- 10:30am Rev. Steve Armfield, preaching
- Priscilla Circle Bake Sale
- 4:30pm Music with Miss Abby

Monday, April 29

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

Tuesday, April 30

- 10am Needlepoint
- 10:30am Men's Bible Study
- 6:30pm Council Mtg

Wednesday, May 1

- 10am Sisters of Faith
- 12pm Priscilla Circle luncheon
- 6pm Handbell rehearsal
- 7pm Al-Anon
- 7:30pm Chancel Choir rehearsal

Thursday, May 2

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

Friday, May 3

- Day of Caring | EGR Middle School
- 7am Men's Bible Study

Looking Ahead

Upcoming dates to note

MAY

- 5** New Members Class | 9am
Morning Worship | 10:30am
*Rev. Adam Lipscomb, preaching
Scout's Derby | 4:00pm
Music with Miss Abby | 4:30pm
- 8** Prayer Retreat | 5:30pm
- 12** Mothers' Day
Morning Worship | 10:30am
*Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, preaching
- 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

JUNE

- 2** Morning Worship | 10:30am
*Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, preaching
- 3-7** Writing Camp | 9am-12pm, 1pm-4pm
- 9** Morning Worship | 10:30am
*Rev. Steve Armfield, preaching
Annual Meeting | following worship
- 10-13** Art Camp | 9am-12pm
- 16** Fathers' Day
Morning Worship | 10:30am
*Rev. Katherine Baker, preaching

Honoring High School Seniors



Eve Orban:
“My favorite memory from growing up at Mayflower is the family Christmas Eve service. I loved all of the beautiful decorations and singing my favorite Christmas carols with my friends.”



Ben Ruppert:
Ben has many favorite memories, but a few of them would be the Christmas Eve service, youth group floor hockey, and breakfast at Wolfgang’s!



Hope Orban:
“My favorite memory of Mayflower is helping my Mom teach Sunday School. I had so much fun working with the children and all the great crafts.”



Rehn Oosterman:
Rehn loves attending Breakfast Club at Wolfgangs with the group. It is a nice time to start the day and catch up with church friends not often seen with busy schedules.



Ryan Brinker:
“My favorite memory from Mayflower Church is tutoring at Mulick Park Elementary with my youth group peers.”



Carter Barnes:
“My favorite memory of Mayflower is hanging out with my friends at youth group!”



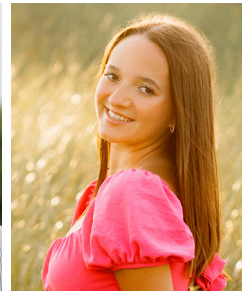
Oskar Dicke:
“My favorite memory from youth group is making lasagna with everyone for families in need, because it allowed me to have fun while also helping others out.”



Lucy Houlihan:
Lucy especially loved the Chicago middle school mission trips and tutoring at Mulick Park.



Charlie Seufert:
“I would say just breakfast club in general. Nothing too specific, just hanging out with Mrs Conway.”



Nathalie Lanne:
“A favorite memory was probably going on the mission trip to Chicago!”

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

Council Members are available in the parlor every Sunday after worship. Please stop in to say, "hi!"

BIKE DRIVE & CLOTHING DONATIONS FRIDAY, MAY 3 | 10AM – 2PM | LOWER LOT

Mayflower is collecting your used adult bikes, clothing, and household goods to support outreach partners, Upcycle Bikes and Mel Trotter Ministries. Donations accepted in the lower lot.



Upcycle Bikes plans to refurbish and donate at least 600 bikes this year to support basic transportation needs for financially constrained individuals across the community.



Mel Trotter Ministries Thrift Stores can use your gently used clothing, shoes, toys, books, furniture, small appliances and household items.

EGR Middle School students will be assisting as this coincides with their Day of Caring.

Praises and Prayers

Week of April 28, 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 give praise for the **10 high school seniors** who are graduating this year. We are thankful for God's faithfulness through the past grade school years.

We celebrate **Helen Bellows** who was a founder of Priscilla Circle in 1958. (4/21)

PRAY FOR THE NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Pray for **Bill Potts** who is back in the hospital. (4/25)

Pray for **Maris Rosema** who is dealing with heart and lung issues. (4/18)

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)

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

Please pray for members **Tom, Terri and Jessica Visser** as they grieve the death of Tom's mother, Arola Visser, who died April 20. The funeral service was held April 24, at Trinity United Reformed Church. (4/25)

We pray for **Rupert Samuel** and his family as they mourn the death of his mother. (4/23)

Prayers for **Julie Holt** and **Kristin Ruud** and their families. Their father, **Doug Hoogerhyde**, passed away 4/18. Visitation will be April 29, 2-4pm and 6-8pm at the Metcalf & Jonkhoff Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life will be at 11am, April 30 at Mayflower. (4/18)

Pray for **Jan Cornelius** whose mother, **Doris VanEss** passed away 4/22. (4/22)

Mary Brace Scharff, niece of **Susan and Ray Lovell**, died April 12. Please pray for the Lovell and Scharff families as they grieve their loss. (4/18)

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

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

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.

YOU'RE INVITED: PRAYER RETREAT FOR RECONCILIATION AND HEALING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8 | 5:30PM-8PM

SCHEDULE FOR THE EVENING

(Childcare available 6-8pm)

- 5:30-6 Light Refreshments
- 6-6:45 Opening | Rev. Steve Armfield
Prayer Session | Rev. Eric Britcher
- 7-7:45 Prayer Session | Rev. Steve Armfield
- 7:45-8 Celebrating Reconciliation and Healing

For additional information, please contact
Murry Idema (murry@mayflowerchurch.org) or Patty Sienstra (psienstra@gmail.com)

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

Rev. Steve Armfield, 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

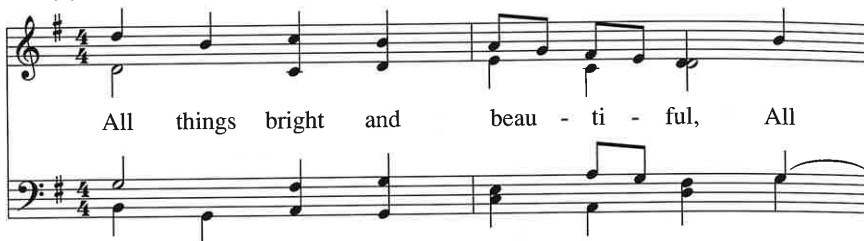
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All Things Bright and Beautiful

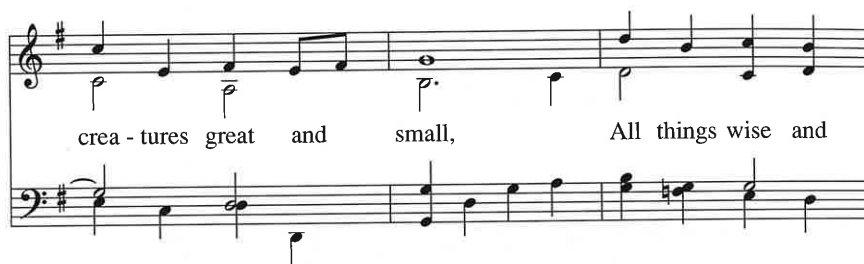
Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895

Traditional English Melody
Adapt. by Martin Shaw, 1875–1958

Refrain *Unison*



All things bright and beau - ti - ful, All

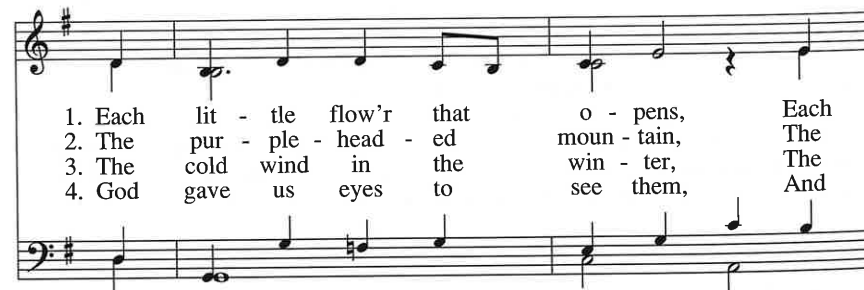


crea - tures great and small, All things wise and



won - der - ful, The Lord God made them all.

Verses



1. Each lit - tle flow'r that o - pens, Each
2. The pur - ple - head - ed moun - tain, The
3. The cold wind in the win - ter, The
4. God gave us eyes to see them, And

ROYAL OAK
7.6.7.6 with Refrain

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

THE FATHER

God the Creator

THE TRIUNE GOD

The musical score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The vocal line begins with a treble clef and the piano accompaniment with a bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The score is divided into two systems. The second system ends with a double bar line and the marking 'D.C.' (Da Capo).

lit - tle bird that sings, He made their glow - ing
riv - er run - ning by, The sun - set, and the
pleas - ant sum - mer sun, The ripe fruits in the
lips that we might tell How great is God Al -

col - ors, He made their ti - ny wings.
morn - ing That bright - ens up the sky.
gar - den, He made them ev - 'ry one.
might - y, Who has made all things well.

D.C.

Creator God, the seasons give us glimpses of Your majesty and power. Your creation snaps, pops, bursts, settles and renews over and over. The silence of winter calls us to meditation and reflection. The promise of spring speaks to us of resurrection glory. The warmth of summer engages us with vigorous heat and light. The fleeting nature of fall explodes around us and fades away in a visual song of the cycle of life, death and resurrection.

Speak to us of the dormant places within us and within Your Church, O Lord. May Your warmth and light bring renewed energy and purpose to our lives. May we be nourished and fed to continue to grow and develop. May we rise up and stretch toward You, seeking Your inspiration and responding to Your power in us.

Precious Lord, help us to see You in all that lives and thrives around us. Help us to be good stewards of this world as Your people. Give us grateful hearts for all that we have and all that we are in You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Rev. John Miller

THE TRIUNE GOD

210

Now the Green Blade Riseth

John M. C. Crum, 1872–1958
Oxford Book of Carols, alt.

French Carol
 Harm. by Martin Shaw, 1875–1958

1. Now the green blade ris - eth, from the bur - ied grain,
 2. In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
 3. Forth He came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in the dark earth man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that He nev - er would a - wake a - gain,
 Je - sus who for three days in the grave had lain;
 Je - sus' touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Quick from the dead my ris - en Lord is seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Love is come a - gain, like wheat that spring - eth green.

FRENCH CAROL
 11.10.10.11

THE TRIUNE GOD

34

Let All Things Now Living

Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980

Traditional Welsh Melody

1. Let all things now liv - ing A song of thanks - giv - ing To
2. His law He en - forc - es; The stars in their cours - es And

God the Cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise; Who
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine. The

fash - ioned and made us, Pro - tect - ed and stayed us, Who
hills and the moun - tains, The riv - ers and foun - tains, The

still guides us on to the end of our days. God's
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim Him di - vine. We,

ban - ners are o'er us; His light goes be - fore us - A
too, should be voic - ing Our love and re - joic - ing; With

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

Text © 1939, renewed 1966, E. C. Schirmer Music Co.

Tune arr. © 1997, Integrity's Hosanna! Music and Word Music (a div. of WORD MUSIC, admin. Hal Leonard Publishing Corp.)

ASH GROVE
6.6.11.6.6.11 D

THE FATHER

God the Creator

THE TRIUNE GOD

pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night— Till
glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise Till

shad - ows have van - ished And dark - ness is ban - ished, As
all things now liv - ing U - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To

for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Almighty God, in your image you have made us, and we join all things now living to thank You. As the sun warms our face, Your radiance illuminates us. As the moon sheds its soft light, the dark nights of our souls are whispered away. As the hills and the mountains tower over us, we are humbled by Your majesty and strengthened by Your power. As the waters of the earth refresh us, Your grace renews us. In the twinkle of the stars, in the songs of the birds, in the warm, nuzzling love of Your friendliest beasts, Your love comforts us, sustains us, and swaddles us. For all these things, we thank You and praise You. Amen.

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth E. Bingham