

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 1, 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.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Holy Mystery,

You who are coming and yet here,

You who are our hope, longed for yet unimaginable, waken us.

Open our hearts to hold space for you to hope in us. We are alert; we are waiting.

PRELUDE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Mayflower Bells

Kathy Moglebust

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE*

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Rachael Cooley

INTROIT

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Chancel Choir

Words: Charles Wesley and Mark Hunt; Music: John Staine

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;

From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Bob Livingston

Leader: November ends. December begins.

People: We find our beginning and our ending in God.

Leader: Month after month, our God attends us and supports us.

People: For God's company, we offer thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ:

People: God who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever. Come, Emmanuel.

HYMN 92*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

(v. 1 Choir; vs 2, 3, 4 all)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH*

Weiler Family

Leader: The night is far gone.

People: The day is near.

Leader: And so we wait.

People: We wait with hope,

Leader: for the brokenhearted to be healed,

People: for the downtrodden to be lifted up.

Leader: We wait for the coming of the Christ child.

People: In the meantime,

Leader: We will sing into the silence.

People: We will light a candle against the darkness.

[light candle while we sing]

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be - tween of God, love Child, Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod, This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!" The score includes measure numbers 5, 9, and 13. The music ends with a double bar line.

Words: Shirley Erena Murray; Music Carlton Young, © 1994 Hope Publishing Co, used by permission OneLicense #729334-A

ADVENT PRAYER*

Holy God of Hope, give us ears to hear and hearts to trust the promises you offer to us in this season of Advent. As we worship together, we offer ourselves to you and we open ourselves to your abundant grace. Amen.

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 563

Kris Wilson

Luke 21:25-36
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 746

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Come in the Midst of Despair and Bring HOPE

Rev. Bell Olsson

CAROL 133*

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Bob Livingston

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Wilbur Chenoweth (1899-1980)

Chancel Choir

The text to this anthem may be found in the Hymnal #63

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

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord most ho - ly, God of pow'r and God of might:
heav'n and earth re - veal your glo - ry. Hail, ho-san-na, Lord of light!
Bless-ed be the co - ming Sav - ior: Hail, ho-san-na, Lord of light!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Christ had died, Christ is ris - - -
-en, Christ will come a - gain! A - men.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION



SHARING COMMUNION

COMMUNION ANTHEM *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)

Chancel Choir

Aaron Wheeler, tenor

Josh Ledesma, bass

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and stand with fear and trembling, and lift itself above all earthly thought. For the King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ our God, cometh forth to be our oblation, and to be given for food to the faithful. Before Him come the choirs of angels, with every principality and power; the Cherubim with many eyes, and winged Seraphim, who veil their faces as they shout exultingly the hymn, Alleluia.

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.

CAROL 89*

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

BENEDICTION*

Rev. Bell Olsson

May you carry the light of hope with you this week. And may that light burn with the power of the Holy Spirit against all the darknesses you encounter – a stubborn light to mark this season of waiting, this season of hope. Amen.

DISMISSAL*

Rev. Bell Olsson

Leader: As we await our coming Savior, go in hope.

People: We wait in hope. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Wachet auf! Ruft uns die Stimme (Sleepers, wake!)

Dr. Julia Brown

by J. S. Bach

Looking Ahead

**Words in italics denote partnering organizations that meet at Mayflower.*

Today, December 1

10:30am | First Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER

- 2 Men's Bible Study | 7:30am
Women's Bible Study | 9:30am
Women's Bible Study | 5pm
Men's Bible Study | 5pm
- 3 Breakfast Club | 6:30am
Needlepoint | 10am
*Mahj in the Mitten** | 6pm
- 4 *Garden Club** | 9:30am
Priscilla Circle | 11am
Advent Alive | 4:30pm
Advent Learning Series | 6pm
Mayflower Bells | 6pm
*Al-Anon** | 7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:30pm
- 5 *Women's City Club** | 9:30am
Women's Bible Study | 10am
*Boy Scouts** | 6:30pm
- 6 Men's Bible Study | 7am
- 7 Cantata dress rehearsal | 9am
Choir Potluck | 12pm
- 8 Cantata Sunday | 10:30am
Elevate | 5pm

Cantata Sunday

DEC. 8 | 10:30AM

**A music-filled service with choir,
soloists, and chamber orchestra.**

**THE TRADITION CONTINUES:
Next Sunday our Mayflower
choir and members of the GR
Symphony perform Vaughn
*Williams Fantasia on Christmas
Carols* and Bach / Kuhnau *For Us
a Child is Born*. This is the perfect
Sunday to invite family and friends!**

THIS ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON, WE INVITE YOU TO

Come IN THE *Midst of...*

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP | 10:30am

- Dec. 1 | In the midst of despair bring HOPE
- Dec. 8 | In the midst of division bring PEACE
- Dec. 15 | In the midst of grief bring JOY
- Dec. 22 | In the midst of apathy bring LOVE
- Dec. 29 | In the midst of change bring SONG
- Jan. 5 | Epiphany

DECEMBER 8 | CANTATA SUNDAY

Chancel Choir, soloists and GR Symphony musicians perform

V. Williams - *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and

J. S. Bach / Kuhnau - *For Us a Child is Born* within the context of worship



ADVENT LEARNING SERIES

Mary the Mother of Jesus: Favor, Consent, and Action

WEDNESDAYS | Dec. 4, 11, 18 | 6-7pm | SANCTUARY



Helen Bell and
Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson

Come study the life of Mary with **Helen Bell** and **Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson**. We will learn about her extraordinary path to becoming the mother of Jesus and how this changed the world.

Mayflower Advent Calendar

The season of **Advent** begins today. To prepare our hearts for the miracle of Christmas, **Mayflower Advent Calendars** are available at the welcome table in the Atrium, the church office, or online at the QR code listed below.

Each week during the season of Advent, the calendar will feature an outreach partner of Mayflower Congregational Church. As we await the miracle of Christ's birth, may we let the love of God inspire our actions each day!



COLLECTING WINTER GEAR

ADULT & CHILDRENS SIZES | COATS, GLOVES, HATS, BOOTS

Please bring donations to the church for the next two weeks and place in the donation boxes located at the Atrium entrance. The Outreach team will donate items to our Outreach Partners, Mulick Elementary School and Exodus Place. Contact Rachael Cooley (rachael@mayflowerchurch.org) with questions.

Senior Minister Search Committee Update

The Senior Minister Search Committee was elected by the congregation at our July Annual Meeting, and since August has been working together to lay the foundation for a successful search process on behalf of the people of Mayflower. They will be providing general progress updates to the congregation during Sunday service every 6 weeks, and special updates as needed.



Chris Edgar

Co-chair

chrisedgar@comcast.net



Peter Houlihan

Co-chair

peter@brightformat.com



Janice Yates

Recording Secretary



Matthew Dhaselaar



Barbara Gordon



Dave Hathaway



Barbara Hohman



Patrick Miller



Courtney Weiler



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE

We have devotionals for you and your family. For hard copies, come see us at the welcome table or the church office.

Announcements for December

Mayflower news and details on upcoming events. Visit MayflowerChurch.org/events for more information.

WHO IS MARY? | WEDNESDAYS | 6-7PM

Wednesdays in December from 6-7pm join Helen Bell and Pastor Ruth in the sanctuary as they discuss, "Who is Mary?"

MONDAY AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Mon. Dec. 2, you are invited to join us for the season of Advent. We will be reading, Scott Erikson's "Honest Advent" (purchase copies at honestadvent.com). Join us!



ADVENT ALIVE | DEC. 4 | 4:30PM

Please join us for the annual tradition of Advent Alive on Wednesday, Dec. 4. We will sing carols and enjoy a meal. All are welcome to this joyous event!

THURSDAY AM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Beginning Thursday, Dec. 5, all are invited to join a Bible study during the Advent season. Pastor Steve Armfield will lead us in studying, "It All Happened in Real Time."

CANTATA SUNDAY | DEC. 8 | 10:30AM

Join us Sunday for music-filled worship! Vaughan Williams' *Fantasy on Christmas Carols* and J. S. Bach's *For Us a Child is Born*.

69 UP | TUESDAY, DEC. 10 | 5-7PM

Elaine Matthews will host this festive event in her home with its unique Christmas decorations on display. Everyone aged 69 and above is invited to share in the joyful occasion. Please RSVP to murry@mayflowerchurch.org and indicate if you will bring an appetizer or a bottle of white wine to share.

GROWNUPS GATHER & GRAZE | DEC. 12

Christmas Soirée is Dec. 12, 6-8:30pm at Barbara Hohman's (3715 Cook Valley Blvd.) Please bring white wine and an appetizer. Dessert will be provided. Holiday sing-a-long to round out the festivities. Please RSVP to karenroth01@gmail.com

POINSETTIA ORDERS

8" double stem red poinsettias will adorn the sanctuary Dec. 22 through Christmas Eve. Dedicate one for \$20 to take home after the Christmas Eve Service. Order by Dec. 15, contact office@mayflowerchurch.org or call 616.459.6255.



Advent Alive - We Need Crafts!

Our annual Midweek Advent event is Dec. 4 and we need help - WE NEED CRAFTS. If you are able, please donate a craft (or two!) for 30 kids prior to that Wednesday. You may leave your craft in the church office. Contact Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org with questions.

Praises and Prayers

If you would like to receive prayer, 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 celebrate with **Ruth Blair** who turned 100 on Nov. 4! Happy Birthday, Ruth!

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We pray for **Eric Britcher** as he is receiving treatment at Mary Free Bed outpatient. (11/19)

Prayers for **Chip George** as he recovers from surgery after falling off a ladder. (11/19)

Wendy Jacobs appreciates the prayers, food, and cards from Mayflower following her knee surgery. Please continue to pray as she is experiencing a painful recovery. (11/19)

Pray for **Gary Wallin**. Gary has been recently hospitalized with multiple health issues. His doctors are trying to plan how to treat them. (11/19)

Ann Trost who is in hospice care at Trillium Woods. We pray for peace and comfort for Ann at this time. (10/29)

PRAY FOR FRIENDS OF MAYFLOWER

Prayers for **Sara Stainbrook**, a friend of Barbara Hohman's daughter Jennifer, who is experiencing health issues. (11/19)

Pray for **Elaine Matthews'** family friend, **David Layman**, who is experiencing serious health issues. (11/11)

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

We pray for **Eden Ministries** serving vulnerable children in Doma, Zimbabwe.

Pray for **Energy for Mission** and **Pastor Marcel** doing peace work and faith restoration in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo

We pray for peace on Earth.

We pray for **world leaders** to seek the flourishing of all people.

Sunday Morning Greeters and Cookies Providers

We want to thank Mayflower groups and committees for providing cookies and greeting us! December is *Council and Congregational Events* month!



COUNCIL

Kateri Schutt,
Moderator
Chris Yates,
Vice Moderator
John P. Schneider,
Treasurer

Amy Conway
Martin Grin
Patty Sienstra
Kris Wilson
Dan Poortenga
Susan Orban

Courtney Weiler
Kathy Wynsma
Peter Northouse
John VerMeulen
David Blair
Ingrid Nelson
Robin Dhaseleer

CONGREGATIONAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

Courtney Weiler, *Chair & CR*
Katherine Miller
Doug Oosterman
Kristine Schwab
Jess Ruppert
Dawn Williams
Dave Baker
Susan Laffrey
Elizabeth Bogo
Patty Sienstra

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: 6163446255 (no spaces) and then follow the prompts.

WELCOME! We are so glad you joined us today!

WELCOME! If this is your first time worshipping 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. Middle Schoolers are encouraged to join us in Sunday school as small group helpers - they earn "CIT Bucks"!

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, Interim Senior Pastor

Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music and Organist

Scott Bosscher, Chancel Choir Director | 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

Mark Webb, Interim Children & Youth Music Director | Kristen Van Stee, Communications Coordinator

Jana DeShane and David Schellenberg, Facilities Team

THE TRIUNE GOD

92

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Latin, ca. 9th C.

Sts. 1, 2, trans. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Sts. 3, 4, trans. by Henry S. Coffin, 1877–1954

Chant Plainsong

Adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811–1890

Unison

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its
 3. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, And or - der
 4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex -
 by Thine ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds
 all things, far and nigh; To us the path of knowl -
 in one heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife and quar -

ile here, Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 edge show, And cause us in her ways to go.
 rels cease; Fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

VENI EMMANUEL
 LM with Refrain

THE TRIUNE GOD

133

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Speier Gesangbuch, 1599

Sts. 1, 2, trans. by Theodore Baker, 1851-1934

St. 3, *The Hymnal*, 1940

Geistliche Kirchengesang, Cologne, 1599

Arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten - der stem hath
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas for - told it, The Rose I have in
 3. O Flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As men of old have
 mind, With Mar - y we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er
 air, Dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry -

sung. It came, a blos - som bright, A - mid the cold of
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to men a
 where; True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and death now

win - ter, When half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.
 save us, And share our ev - 'ry load.

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN
 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

First verse: "As those of old have sung"
 Second verse: "She bore to us a Savior"

THE TRIUNE GOD

89

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Haggai 2:7

Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Attr. to Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716

Psalmody Sacra, Gotha, 1715

1. Come, Thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the
3. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child, and
4. By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our

peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us,
earth Thou art: Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion,
yet a king, Born to reign in us for - ev - er,
hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it

Let us find our rest in Thee.
Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne. A - men.

STUTTGART

8.7.8.7