

# MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 8, 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

*Creator God, World-Maker, World-Changer,*

*Heart-Changer, prepare your way in me.*

*Make the crooked straight, the rough places smooth.*

*Prepare your way in me.*

---

## PRELUDE

*Prelude from Christmas Oratorio*

Orchestra

by Camille Saint-Saëns

## 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; Music: John Stainer

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

Susan Stoddard

Leader: God of promise, God of Mystery, you have sent a messenger to awaken us.

People: **May the promise of your dawn awaken our hearts and minds. May the light of your promise guide our steps and lead us toward you. May the joy of your coming sustain us and uplift us.**

Leader: God of Love, God of Presence, you have given us a message for the world.

People: **May the light of your coming shine within us. May your Spirit, alive in us, make us signs of your coming. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and dawn within and among us now.**

## CAROL 84\*

*Comfort, Comfort*

FREU DICH SEHR

(v. 1 Lindsey Ledesma, Brennen Kartes, Ryan Potts and Josh Ledesma; **vs. 2, 3, all**)

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH\*

Children and Youth of Mayflower

Leader: Prepare the way:

**People: To the north, south, east and west.**

Leader: Make room for God's work:

**People: In our hearts, in our world, in our church, in our relationships.**

Leader: Be prepared: like a refiner's fire, God will work to make us more beautiful than gold, more precious than silver.

**People: Prepare the way.**

[light candle while we sing]

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four lines of music, each with a measure number on the left. The lyrics are written below the notes. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a consistent rhythm of quarter notes and eighth notes.

Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be-tween of God,  
5 love Child, Christ Child, heav-en's light - ning rod,  
9 This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when  
13 Christ - mas comes for ev - ery - one, ev - ery - one a - live!

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

## ADVENT PRAYER\* (spoken by all)

**Gracious God, through all our doubt and despair prepare a way for hope. Through our selfishness and fear, prepare a way for love. Through our resistance and control, prepare a way for grace. Through our anger and enmity, prepare a way for peace. O You Who Are Coming, prepare your way in us. 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.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:68-79

Susan Stoddard

**MEDITATION, PART 1** *Come in the Midst of Division & Bring PEACE* Rev. Bell Olsson

**THE MESSAGE THROUGH MUSIC**

*Fantasy on Christmas Carols*

Chancel Choir

by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Brandon Harris, baritone

This is the truth sent from above, The truth of God, the God of Love:

Therefore don't turn me from your door but hearken all, both rich and poor. The first thing which I will relate is that God did man create, The next thing which to you I'll tell, woman was made with man to dwell. Then, after this, 'twas God's own choice to place them both in paradise, there to remain, from evil free, except they ate of such a tree. And they did eat, which was a sin, and thus their ruin did begin, ruined themselves, both you and me and all of their posterity. Thus we were heirs to endless woes. Till God the Lord did interpose, and so a promise soon did run, that he would redeem us by his Son.

Come all you worthy gentlemen, that may be standing by, Christ our blessed Savior was born on Christmas day. The blessed Virgin Mary unto the Lord did pray. O we wish you the comfort and tidings of joy!

Christ our Blessed Savior now in the manger lay. He's lying in the manger, while the oxen feed on hay.

The blessed Virgin Mary unto the Lord did pray. O we wish you the comfort and tidings of joy!

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring: news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth. When sin departs before thy grace then life and health come in its place. Angels and men with joy may sing. All for to see the new-born King. God bless the ruler of this house, and long may he reign. Many happy Christmases he live to see again! God bless our generation, who live both far and near And we wish them a happy New Year both now and evermore. Amen.

**MEDITATION, PART 2** *Come in the Midst of Division & Bring PEACE* Rev. Bell Olsson

**THE MESSAGE THROUGH MUSIC**

Chancel Choir

*For Unto Us a Child is Born* BWV 142

by J. S. Bach (1685-1750) / Johann Kuhnau (1660-1722)

1. Overture

Orchestra

2. Chorus: For unto us a child is born

Chancel Choir

For us a Child is born, a son to us is given.

3. Aria: So appears the Natal day

Joshua Ledesma, bass

So appears Thy natal day, my Redeemer, hear, O hear me,  
I renew my holy pledge to be steadfast, true and faithful. In the darkness I am lost,  
for I know not how to find what I search for, what I long for as a sacrifice I bring Thee.

Let my heart this day be Thine, O my Lord.

4. Chorus: I will praise the name of God

Chancel Choir

Laud we the name of God most holy,  
Praise we His name most holy, praise with a mighty anthem.  
Let His be the honor and thanks.

5. Aria: Jesus, thanks be to you Greg Barry, tenor  
Lord, my thanks to Thee, Lord I praise Thy Holy name.  
Then my lot through Thy compassion Thou hast raised in Thine own fashion,  
and Thou art my saving grace.

6. Recitative: Immanuel! Melissa Blanchard, alto  
Immanuel! O give to me in Thy great mercy that which my faith and spirit fain would have.  
How can I tell Thee all of my poor heart's emotion, which this Thy birthday wakes within me.  
O let my voice be raised so that I may sing Thy praises.

7. Aria: Praise be to you, Jesus Melissa Blanchard, alto  
Lord, I sing Thy name for ever, for I am through Thee redeemed.  
Nothing clouds my spirit and my heart through Thy great favor finds its bounteous strength in Thee.

8. Chorus: Alleluia Chancel Choir  
Alleluia. O praised be God. All raise your voices, sing with thankful voices.  
Thou God today hast given us joy. Hold fast to Him and praise His name eternal.

**CALL TO OFFERING** Rev. Bell Olsson

**OFFERTORY** Orchestra  
*Sheep May Safely Graze*  
by J. S. Bach, arr. E. Power Biggs

### **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. Bell Olsson

**CALL TO PRAYER** (sung by all) ST. LOUIS

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

**CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER** Rev. Bell Olsson

### **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 87\*** PERSONENT HODIE  
*Long Ago, Prophets Knew*

## BENEDICTION\*

Rev. Bell Olsson

The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

## DISMISSAL\*

Rev. Bell Olsson

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

**People: We wait in peace. Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

*Unto Us a Son is Born*  
Tambling

Dr. Julia Brown

The flowers today are placed today by Dave and Jan Cornelius  
in loving memory of his mom, Corrine, his dad, Phil and his sister, Mary Cornelius.

---

### Chancel Choir

Scott Bosscher, conductor  
Julia Brown, accompanist

#### Soprano

Anne Marie Church  
Kristi Burghart\*  
Donna Gardner  
Erin Gilbert\*  
Lindsay Ledesma\*  
Vivian Reed

#### Alto

Melissa Blanchard\*  
Linda Chaffee  
Jana DeShane\*  
Marilyn Goodson  
Barbara Hohman  
Brennen Kartes\*  
Sally Robson  
Patty Sienstra

#### Tenor

Greg Barry\*  
Dan Conway  
Ryan Potts\*  
Aaron Wheeler\*

#### Bass

Chris Edgar  
Brandon Harris\*  
Peter Houlihan  
Joshua Ledesma\*  
Greg Rhodes  
Greg Wegner

*\*indicates Section Leader*

### Orchestra

#### Violin 1

James Crawford; Grace Kim

#### Violin 2

Megan Crawford; Jenna Buchner

#### Viola

Mary Jane Miller; Olga Ziabrikova

#### Cello

Andrew Lavin

#### Bass

Mark Buchner

#### Flute

Christopher Kantner; Edward Clifford

#### Oboe

Gabriel Renteria; Maria Schneider

#### Percussion

Andrew Fritz

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our patrons  
Edith I. Blodgett Legacy Fund of the Brookby Foundation

## MUSIC NOTES

“I’ve always loved carols” Vaughan Williams wrote to Cecil Sharp in 1911. He added that there was “something remarkable and quite unlike anything else about them.....I’ve always noticed what a peculiar atmosphere the major carol tunes have”.

Fantasia on Christmas Carols was introduced by the composer at a Three Choirs Festival at Hereford in 1912. The Fantasia reflects Vaughan Williams’ interest in both English folk songs and the soaring lines of Tudor music. In this work, Vaughan Williams deftly interweaves four beautiful English carols—The Truth From Above, The Somerset Carol, On Christmas Night, and There Is A Fountain, together with fragments of other well-known carols. After an introductory cello solo which has a narrative quality (‘Once upon a time’—or should it be ‘In the beginning was the Word’?), the solo baritone intones The truth sent from above accompanied by a wordless chorus, evocative of a wintry rural English landscape. After the more austere first carol Vaughan Williams introduces the more jovial Somerset Carol (Come all you worthy gentlemen), very much a variant on God rest you merry gentlemen, leading into a third section based on the Sussex Carol (On Christmas Night, all Christians sing). At the very end Vaughan Williams removes us from the high spirits of merry-making in a poignant blessing for unaccompanied chorus, and we are carried back across the snow-covered fields and away into the night. It is a moment of exquisite beauty.

Whereas the Fantasia begins with God’s creation story and God’s promise for us, the Bach/Kuhnau Cantata celebrates Jesus’ birth. It begins with an orchestral sinfonia, followed by a chorus that states the overarching message of the work: “a child is born”. In typical fashion, the soloists spin this universal message into a personal experience. The cantata ends with a joyful Alleluia, with an uninterrupted flow of 16th-notes accompanying the four-part chorale line. This Cantata was attributed to Bach in the late 19th-century in the publication of his complete works. Later this attribution was questioned and it is now believed the probable composer is Johann Kuhnau, Bach’s predecessor at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig.

## **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. Middle Schoolers are encouraged to join us in Sunday school as small group helpers - they earn “CIT Bucks”!

# Looking Ahead

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

## Today, December 8

10:30am | Cantata Sunday

5pm | Elevate

## DECEMBER

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

- 10 Breakfast Club | 6:30am  
Needlepoint | 10am  
69UP Christmas Party | 5pm  
*CCGR (Chamber Choir)\** | 5pm  
*Mahj in the Mitten\** | 6pm

- 11 *Sisters of Faith\** | 10:30am  
Midweek | 4pm  
Mayflower Bells | 6pm  
Advent Learning Series | 6pm  
*Al-Anon\** | 7pm  
Chancel Choir | 7:30pm

- 12 Women's Bible Study | 10am  
Grown Ups Gather & Graze Soiree | 6pm  
*Boy Scouts\** | 6:30pm

- 13 Men's Bible Study | 7am  
*Sankta Lucia Rehearsal\** | 6:30pm

- 14 *Writing Camp\** | 9am  
*Sankta Lucia Program\** | 10am

## 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





# ADVENT LEARNING SERIES

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

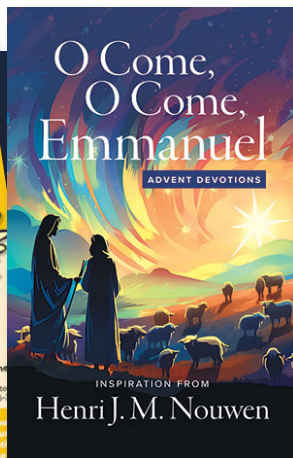
WEDNESDAYS | Dec. 4, 11, 18 | 6-7pm | SANCTUARY



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.

We will livestream this series on Facebook and post the recording on Thursday mornings.



## 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.

# Mayflower Advent Calendar

The season of **Advent** has started. 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!



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

# Commitment Cards and Year End Giving



**COMMITMENT CARDS:** Thank you to all who have submitted your 2025 commitment to giving! If you haven't had a chance to fill out your form/card, please visit the welcome table or the church office for a hard copy, visit [mayflowerchurch.org/support](http://mayflowerchurch.org/support) or scan the QR code. Your financial commitments are needed to help determine the budget for the coming year! Thank you!



**YEAR END GIVING:** 2024 has been a wonderful year of ministering to you and our surrounding community! **Mayflower is reaching hundreds of lives** through worship, music, Bible studies, hospitality, children's programming, social events, and outreach opportunities. **You are still able to make an impact** on Mayflower's 2024 financial needs. If you would like your year end gift to be reflected in your 2024 taxes, please deliver or mail in your contribution to the church office by Tuesday, December 31.

## Men's Bible Study Party



## Needlepoint Guild



# Announcements for December

Mayflower news and details on upcoming events. Visit [MayflowerChurch.org/events](http://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](http://honestadvent.com)). Join us!



## 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."

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:karenroth01@gmail.com)

## SANKTA LUCIA PROGRAM | DEC. 14 | 10AM

The Swedish American Heritage Society of West Michigan invites you to come and enjoy this lovely Swedish introduction to the Christmas season and listen to the Lucia choir sing. After the program there will be baked goods and coffee to enjoy plus a Julmarknad sale (cash only). Email [info@sahswm.org](mailto:info@sahswm.org) to pre-register or pay at the door: adults: \$10; students: \$5; preschool and under are free.

## THE LONGEST NIGHT: BLUE CHRISTMAS DEC. 22 | 5PM

Come in the midst of grief, longing and despair and find comfort, community and hope. Join us in the atrium for a time of lament, contemplation and prayer.

## 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](mailto:office@mayflowerchurch.org) or call 616.459.6255.

## MAYFLOWER PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE JAN. 9 | 6:30PM

If you or a family member or friend are considering preschool for a child next year, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet our fabulous teachers and see our engaging classrooms. If you are a member of Mayflower Church, you are invited to enroll with our current families on Friday, Jan. 10 on our website, beginning at 8am. Please reach out to Missi or Erica at [mayflowerpreschool@outlook.com](mailto:mayflowerpreschool@outlook.com) or 616.459.7386 with any further questions.

## Mulick Elementary Outreach



Alex Barnes, a Mayflower High School Senior that tutors weekly at Mulick Elementary School helped deliver coats, shoes, hats and mittens. Mulick Principal, Thomas Standifer, is very grateful for the donations!

## Exodus Place Outreach



Thank you to Meijer for partnering with the Mayflower Outreach Team to donate 150 sweatshirts to the residents at Exodus Place. The gift of warmth is a true blessing!

## 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](mailto:chrisedgar@comcast.net)



**Peter Houlihan**  
Co-chair

[peter@brightformat.com](mailto:peter@brightformat.com)



**Janice Yates**  
Recording Secretary



**Matthew Dhaseleer**



**Barbara Gordon**



**Dave Hathaway**



**Barbara Hohman**



**Patrick Miller**



**Courtney Weiler**

## Coming in January

Mark your calendars for upcoming January 2025 dates to note!

**January 9 | 6:30pm | Mayflower Preschool Open House**

**January 10 | 8am | Early Enrollment Mayflower Preschool**

If you are a member of Mayflower Church, you are invited to enroll with current preschool families on Friday, Jan. 10 through the website ([mayflowerpreschool.org](http://mayflowerpreschool.org)), beginning at 8am. Please reach out to Missi or Erica at [mayflowerpreschool@outlook.com](mailto:mayflowerpreschool@outlook.com) or 616.459.7386 with any further questions.

**January 12 | 10:30am | Baptism Sunday**

Join us at morning worship as we celebrate the sacrament of baptism.

**January 16 | Presentation and Book Discussion**

Matt Halteman, author, philosopher and professor will present on his book, *Hungry Beautiful Animals: The Joyful Case for Going Vegan*.

**January 20-31 | 12:30pm-1:30pm | Calvin University January Series**

We will be livestreaming the Calvin January series in the chapel. For a synopsis of each speaker, visit [calvin.edu/january-series/speakers](http://calvin.edu/january-series/speakers)

**January 23 | Upcycle Event: Bikes and Brewery**

**January 26 | 10:30am | All Comer's Choir**

Join the choir for a day! More information coming soon from Julia and Scott.

**January 26 | 12pm-2pm | How to Be a Faithful Friend: Caring for Others**

Join us for this workshop led by Rev. Dr. Bob Livingston, Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, Betsy Willey and the Deacons. A light lunch will be provided.

## Gratitude Sunday



# 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

Please keep **Maris Rosema** in your prayers as she continues to have breathing difficulties. (12/4)

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 jnee 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

Pray for **Scott Stayart**, friend of the McKelvey family, who is battling pneumonia. (12/4)

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)

## PRAAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Dale DeHaan notified us that **Jason Prince** passed away on Dec. 3. Jason is the son-in-law of Jay and Helen Smith, friends of many at Mayflower. (12/4)

## 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.

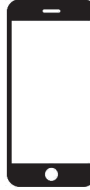
We pray for **world leaders** to seek the flourishing of all people.

## **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.

## **MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

**2345 Robinson Road SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506**  
**616-459-6255    [www.MayflowerChurch.org](http://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

84

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Isaiah 40:1-8

Johann Olearius, 1611-1684

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

1. Com - fort, com - fort, ye my peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus  
 2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth In the des - ert  
 3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er

saith our God; Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,  
 far and near, Bid - ding all men to re - pent - ance  
 plac - es plain; Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load. Speak ye to Je -  
 Since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
 As be - fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

GENEVA 42  
 8.7.8.7.7.8.8

Second verse: "Bidding people to repentance"

## THE TRIUNE GOD

Tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
Let the val - leys rise to meet Him  
And all flesh shall see the to - ken

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a bass line with chords. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Tell her that her sins I cov - er, Let the val - leys rise to meet Him And all flesh shall see the to - ken'.

And her war - fare now is o - ver.  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
That His word is nev - er bro - ken. A - men.

The second system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a bass line with chords. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'And her war - fare now is o - ver. And the hills bow down to greet Him. That His word is nev - er bro - ken. A - men.'.

O God of power and might, Creator of light and of darkness, of the earth and the stars, speak anew to Your people gathered to worship You and sing Your praise. Like Israel of old we wait in darkness, anticipating the Light who will dawn upon us and lift us from shadowy gloom into the glowing splendor of Your presence. So, we ask You, speak to us a word of comfort, a word of hope, a word that will keep our anticipation alive as we wait for the Coming One who brings Your creative Word into our very flesh and makes us one with You. Enable us, in turn, to be bringers of comfort to those who long and wait for You, preparing the way of Your kingdom, already present and yet to come. All this we ask in the name of him whom prophets foretold, the Word who speaks comfort and hope, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Steven A. Peay, Ph.D.

THE TRIUNE GOD

87

Long Ago, Prophets Knew

Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

*Piae Cantiones*

Arr. by Gustav T. Holst, 1874–1934

*Unison*

1. Long a - go,  
 2. God in time,  
 3. Mar - y, hail!  
 4. Jour - ney ends!

proph - ets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,  
 God in man, This is God's time-less plan:  
 Though a - fraid, She be - lieved, she o - beyed.  
 Where a - far Beth - l'hem shines, like a star,

Come to make all things new, Bear His peo - ple's  
 He will come, as a man, Born Him - self of  
 In her womb, God is laid Till the time ex -  
 Sta - ble door stands a - jar: Un - born Son of

bur - den, Free - ly love and par - don.  
 wom - an, God di - vine - ly hu - man.  
 pect - ed, Nur - tured and pro - tect - ed.  
 Mar - y, Sav - ior, do not tar - ry!

Text © 1971, Hope Publishing Company

PERSONENT HODIE  
 6.6.6.6 with Refrain

## THE TRIUNE GOD

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing,

8va-----

sing, sing! When He comes, when He comes,

(8va)-----

who will make Him wel - come?  
*Last time:* we will make Him wel - come!

Every year we enter the holy season of Advent, O God. We hear the words of old, and wonder, wait, and watch. The darkness long surrounds us, as we seek to view the promised light.

As we strain for fulfillment of our longings, O God, hear our yearnings of faithful expectation. Come, approach, draw near.

Touch the wilderness places in our lives, O God. Straighten our lost ways. Fill the darkness of Your galaxy with stars beyond our expectations. Help us see the One to come, the One expected, announced and promised to guide our new beginnings.

Comfort, calm and peace we seek, O God, in wonder, newness and creative sign. This holy season proclaims our long expected "God with us." The gift of joy shines forth.

Our desire to make Him welcome, O God, shines through the darkness, as did the star of old.

Amen.

Rev. Kathryn A. Rust