

# MAYFLOWER

Congregational Church

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024 - 4:00pm



**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.

## PRELUDE

Salvation Army Band of  
Fulton Heights Citadel Church

## WELCOME

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson

## INTROIT

*We Wish You a Merry Christmas*  
Traditional

Jack Weaver, piano

## LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6,7; Micah 5:2

## CAROL\*

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

**O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come Desire of nations, bind, all people in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

## LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

## CAROL\*

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts, the blessings of his Heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still, the dear Christ enters in.**

## LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

## **ANTHEM**

*Away in a Manger*

Children's and Carol Choirs

Trad. English Carol

Children's Chimes

Away in a manger no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

## **LESSON**

Luke 2:8-19

**CALL TO OFFERING** Pillows will be donated to Safe Haven Ministries Rev. Dr. Bob Livingston

## **CAROLS AND OFFERING**

*Joy to the World*

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come**

**Let earth receive her King**

**Let every heart prepare Him room**

**And Heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world, the Savior reigns**

**Let all their songs employ**

**While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains**

**Repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace**

**And makes the nations prove**

**The glories of His righteousness**

**And wonders of His love.**

*Go Tell it on the Mountain*

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,***

***Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!***

**While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light. (Refrain)**

**The shepherds feared and trembled, When lo! Above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)**

**Down in a lowly manger, the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation, that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song. *(Refrain)*

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *(Refrain)*

**LESSON**

Luke 2:20

**A CHRISTMAS MEDITATION**

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson

**CAROL\***

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *(Refrain)*

**LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE** John 1:1-5, 14

The Schutt Family

**CAROL\***

*What Child is This*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own him;  
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone him. *(Refrain)*

## LIGHTING OF THE AISLE CANDLES

Light in Darkness: The act of lighting a candle signifies hope and illumination in times of despair. In a world often filled with darkness—be it physical, emotional, or spiritual—the light from a candle serves as a reminder of Christ’s presence and guidance.

## CLOSING PRAYER

Rev. Bell Olsson and Rev. Dr. Livingston

## CAROL\*

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

*(The service closes after the singing of the carol. Please keep silence until you reach the narthex.)*

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## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, Interim Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Bob Livingston, Pastor  
Rachael Cooley, Interim Executive Administrator  
Abby Brooks, Interim Children and Youth Choir Director  
Melia Colwell, Piano

## YOUTH WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Mary: Clover Samuel	Becca Moons	Frank Starnes
Joseph: Huxley DeCoster	Tanya Moons	Charlie Weaver
DC George	Archie Samuel	Jack Weaver
Oliver Melville	Emma Schneider	Jimmy Weiler

Cover Art by Joel Schoon-Tanis (used by permission)

A special thank you to Curtis Britcher and the Salvation Army Band of Fulton Heights Citadel Church for joining us.

## The following people purchased poinsettias to honor and remember loved ones:

**Helen Bell & Family**, in loving memory of Robert Holmes Bell

**Rachel Blair**, in loving memory of Etcyl Blair

**Elizabeth Bogo**, in dedication to her family - Holly, Martha, Charlie Bogo

**Eric Britcher**, in loving memory of his wife, Dorothy Britcher

**Dan & Linda Conway**, in loving memory of their parents Edward and Helen Conway and John and Agnes Hancock

**Jim & Sue Defoe**, in memory of Eleanor and Craig Defoe

**Barbara Hohman**, in loving memory of her husband, Russell Hohman

**John and Janyce Huff**, in celebration of Wade, Lilly, Kara, Ben, Iris & Andy

**Perii Hutchings**, in loving memory of Bob and Eileen Brown

**Shely & Tom Kester**, in loving memory of their parents Don & Shirley Gibbs and Gus & Yvonne Kester

**Jeff and Kim Peterson**, In celebration of our family

**Patricia Ruth**

**Patty Sienstra**, in loving memory of her husband, Dale Bensted

**Stiffler Family**, in loving memory of Richard and Thalia Stiffler

**Stiffler Family**, in loving memory of Frank and Lisa Yacopino

**Sue Stoddard** in honor of her sons, David and Mark

## With Thanks for the Special Christmas Decorations:

### **Portico Porch Pots:**

Given by Jean Smith in loving memory of her husband, Al Smith

### **Front and Portico Door Wreaths:**

Given by a Mayflower family

### **Atrium Pointsettias:**

Given by Barbara Gordon in loving memory of her husband, George Gordon

### **Advent Wreath Candles:**

Given by Shirley Mayer in loving memory of her husband, Bob Mayer

### **Parlor Christmas Tree and Crismon Decorations:**

Given and created by the women of Priscilla Circle

### **Narthex Christmas Tree and Angel Ornaments:**

Given and created by the women of the Mayflower Needlepoint Guild

# Announcements and Upcoming Events

Mayflower news and details on upcoming events. Visit [MayflowerChurch.org/events](http://MayflowerChurch.org/events) for more information.

## 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 an opportunity to meet the fabulous teachers and see the engaging classrooms. Reach out to Missi or Erica at [mayflowerpreschool@outlook.com](mailto:mayflowerpreschool@outlook.com) or 616.459.7386 with questions.

## EARLY ENROLLMENT MAYFLOWER PRESCHOOL | JAN. 10 | 8AM

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

## BAPTISM SUNDAY | JAN. 12 | 10:30AM

Join us at morning worship as we celebrate the sacrament of baptism. Contact Rev. Bell Olsson if you are interested in being baptized ([ruth@mayflowerchurch.org](mailto:ruth@mayflowerchurch.org)).

## PRESENTATION & BOOK DISCUSSION

**JAN. 16**

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

## CALVIN UNIVERSITY JANUARY SERIES

**JAN. 20-31 | 12:30PM**

We will livestream 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)

## UPCYCLE EVENT: BIKES & BREWERY | JAN. 23

Mark your calendar, more info coming soon!

## ALL COMER'S CHOIR | JAN. 26 | 10:30AM

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

## WORKSHOP | JAN. 26 | 12PM

*How to Be a Faithful Friend: Caring for Others*, a workshop led by Rev. Dr. Bob Livingston, Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, Betsy Willey, and the deacons will be Jan. 26. A light lunch will be provided.

## CONFIRMATION MEETING | FEB. 9

A Confirmation information meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 9 following the service. Students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and older are invited. Reach out to Rachael Cooley with any questions.

## NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a member of Mayflower in the New Year? Please reach out to [office@mayflowerchurch.org](mailto:office@mayflowerchurch.org) to share your interest.

## 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.

## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Dec. 24: OPEN 8am-12pm | Dec. 25-27: CLOSED | Dec. 30: OPEN 8am-3pm  
Dec. 31-Jan. 1: CLOSED | Jan. 2-3 : OPEN 8am-3pm

## 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

Abby Brooks, Interim Children & Youth Music Director | Kristen Van Stee, Communications Coordinator

Jana DeShane and David Schellenberg, Facilities Team