

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

January 5, 2025 - 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*.

Bold 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

*My singing heart, my days' doxology, my gold,
I bring for CELEBRATION*

*My stillness, my glimpses of serenity, my frankincense,
I bring for MEDITATION*

*My brokenness, my tears of rage and sorrow, my myrrh,
I bring for SACRIFICE*

-Kate Compston, in *Bread of Tomorrow: Praying with the World's Poor*

PRELUDE

What Child is This with We Three Kings
by Stephen DeCesare

Erin Gilbert, violin

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE*

Rev. Dr. Bob Livingston

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Rachael Cooley

INTROIT

Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light
by J. S. Bach

Chancel Choir

Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning; Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning. This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Murry Idema

Leader: All people, young and old, together; on this blessed Epiphany Sunday, as we think of the light of God coming to us in the person of Jesus, we praise you and exalt your holy name.

People: Praise God in the highest heaven. Praise God, all dwellers of the earth.

Leader: God commanded and we were created. God comes to us in Jesus and forever claims us as God's own.

People: Praise God, all who seek to live in faithfulness. Glorify God's name as we join together in the loving community.

Leader: Know that we are loved by God. We are called into one holy and universal family by that same love.

People: Let us draw closer to God this year in a special way as we seek to be one with one another.

Leader: Let us celebrate and worship God together.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL 148* *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

KINGS OF ORIENT

ALL sing vs. 1, vs. 5 and all refrains

Vs. 2, 3, 4 – choir

OPENING PRAYER*

Murry Idema

Height and breadth, length and depth, the whole universe proclaims your glory, O God. Your wisdom fills the universe with possibilities we have not yet tapped. Your Word came to us in Jesus, filled with treasures we have not yet uncovered. Within ourselves is the potential for goodness that is yet fully realized. Held by your eternal love, may we become the kind, compassionate, faithful, and mature people you intend for us to be, through the grace and compassion of Jesus Christ. 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

Matthew 2:1-12
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 681

Murry Idema

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

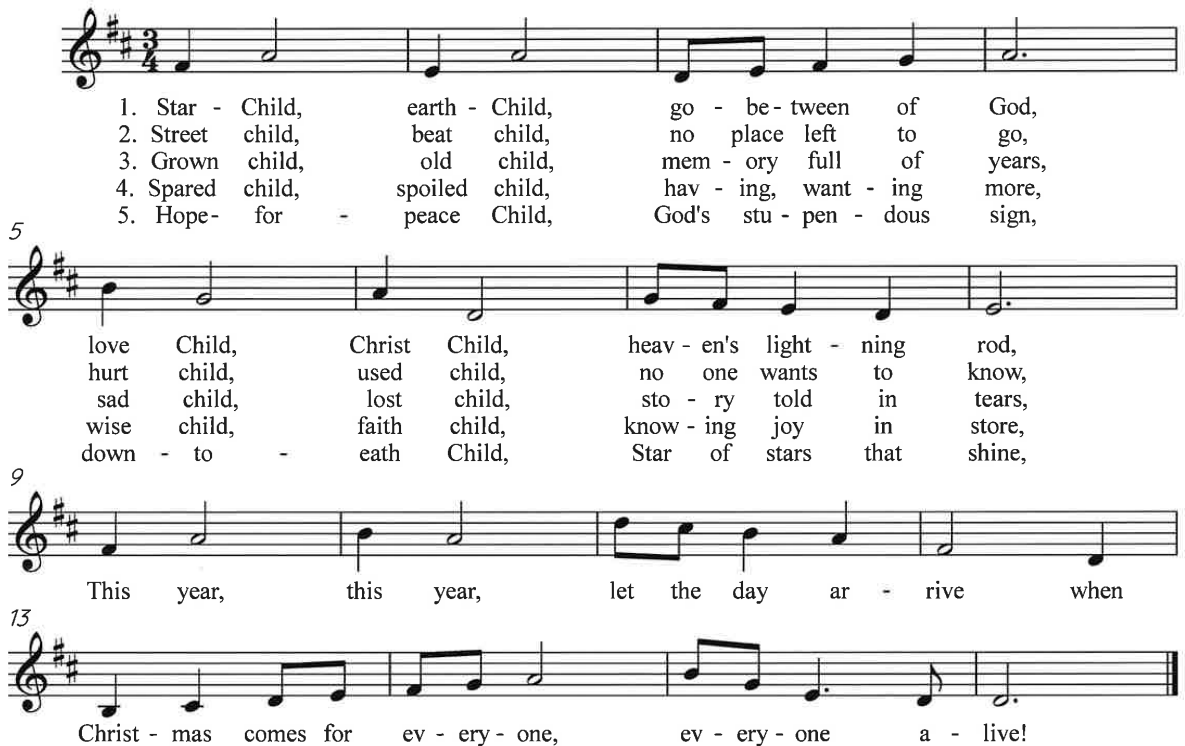
All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON*Moving Forward*

Rev. Dr. Livingston

HYMN*Star Child*

STAR CHILD



1. Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be - tween of God,
 2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go,
 3. Grown child, old child, mem - ory full of years,
 4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more,
 5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen - dous sign,

love Child, Christ Child, heav - en's light - ning rod,
 hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
 sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears,
 wise child, faith child, know - ing joy in store,
 down - to - eath Child, Star of stars that shine,

This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when
 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

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Livingston

OFFERTORY ANTHEM*Wexford Carol*

Chancel Choir

by Richard Lakey

Erin Gilbert, soprano

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind

What our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son. With Mary holy we should pray to God with
 love this Christmas Day; In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; To whom God's angels did
 appear, which put the shepherds in great fear. "Prepare and go," the angels said, "To Bethlehem, be not
 afraid; for there you'll find, this happy morn, a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the babe to find,
 And as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold. Within a manger he was laid, and by his
 side the virgin maid, Attending on the Lord of life, who came on earth to end all strife.

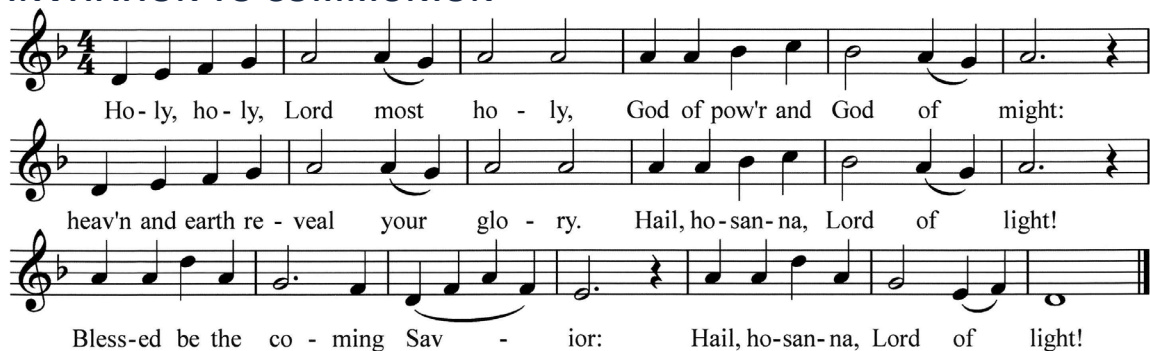
DOXOLOGY*

**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



Al - e - lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! A - - men.

SHARING COMMUNION

(We invite you to come forward for the elements.)

You are welcome to take them as you receive them or take them back to your seat.)

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Jesu Parvule

Chancel Choir

by Alfred Burt

Jesu parvule, On Thy couch of hay, greet we Thee today, Sweet Son of Mary.
Be Thy slumber deep, while fair angels keep vigil o'er Thy sleep, Blest Babe of Mary.
'Tis Thy joy to see Kings on bended knee, off'ring gifts to Thee, Sweet Son of Mary.
But Thou may'st not know, what these gifts foreshow of Thy future woe, Blest Babe of Mary.

Let this gold the while with its glint beguile, Thy dear lips to smile, Sweet Son of Mary.
May no shadow tray, cloud one happy day of Thine infant play, Blest Babe of Mary.

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 156*

Wise Ones Seek Him

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

BENEDICTION*

Rev. Dr. Livingston

DISMISSAL*

Rev. Dr. Livingston

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **We go into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.**

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prélude sur l'Introit de l'Épiphanie

Dr. Brown

by Maurice Durufé

The flowers are placed today by Suzanne Shelton as a salute to veterans.

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"!

Looking Ahead

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

Today, January 5

10:30am | Morning Worship

JANUARY

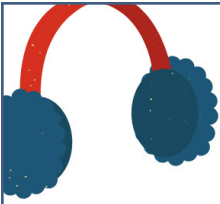
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|----------|--|-----------|--|
| 6 | Men's Bible Study 7:30am
Women's Bible Study 9:30am
Women's Bible Study 5pm
Men's Bible Study 5pm | 9 | <i>Women's City Club*</i> 9:30am
Women's Bible Study 10am
<i>Boy Scouts*</i> 6:30pm
Preschool Open House 6:30pm |
| 7 | Breakfast Club 6:30am
Needlepoint 10am
<i>CCGR (Chamber Choir)*</i> 5pm | 10 | Men's Bible Study 7am |
| 8 | Priscilla Circle 12pm
Mayflower Bells 6pm
Chancel Choir 7:30pm | 12 | Baptism Sunday 10:30am
MS/HS Bells 11:30am
Elevate 5pm |

Senior Minister Search Committee Update

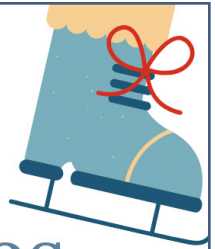
The next step in the Mayflower Senior Minister Search process is for the committee to gather important information from the congregation. A carefully-developed survey is currently being mailed to all Mayflower members, and your responses are requested by January 10, 2025. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete, and the information will be valuable in helping to shape their overall strategy. The mailing will include a link to the online survey option for those who prefer to respond online.

Highlights from the Season of Advent

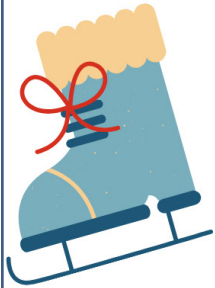




Joyful: Sounds
MUSIC STUDIO



Winter Music Classes



JANUARY 6 - MARCH 15

AGES 0-8

**FRIDAYS 9:30 AND 10:30AM
MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH**



**SCAN TO SIGN UP, OR VISIT US AT
KIDSMUSICGR.COM**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR

MAYFLOWER PRESCHOOL'S

OPEN HOUSE

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9
6:30 - 7:30 PM**

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Mayflower news and details on upcoming events. Visit 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 or 616.459.7386 with questions.

EARLY ENROLLMENT MAYFLOWER PRESCHOOL | JAN. 10 | 8AM

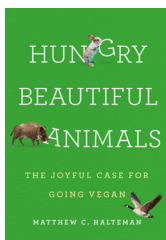
If you are a member of Mayflower Church, you are invited to enroll with current pre-school families on Jan. 10 through the website (mayflowerpreschool.org). Please reach out to Missi or Erica at mayflowerpreschool@outlook.com or 616.459.7386 with questions.

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).

PRESENTATION & BOOK DISCUSSION **JAN. 16 | 6PM**

Matt Halteman, author, philosopher, and professor will present on his book, *Hungry Beautiful Animals: The Joyful Case for Going Vegan*. Find out more about his book at hungrybeautifulanimals.com



CALVIN UNIVERSITY JANUARY SERIES

JAN. 20-31 | 12:30PM

We will live-stream the Calvin January Series in the chapel. For a synopsis of each speaker, visit 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 8th 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 to share your interest.

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

Praise for **Gary Wallin's** improved health. (12/18)

Praise for **Chip George** as he is recovering well from surgery after falling off a ladder. (12/10)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for **Rev. Sara and Rev. Maurice Fetty**. Sara is in hospice care at Beacon Hill. They are not accepting visitors at this time, but welcome prayers and correspondence. (1/2)

Maris Rosema is asking for prayers for her grandson and his family as he is recovering from a car accident. (12/17)

Pray for **Kyle Morrison** and his runners at Kalamazoo College as they mourn the sudden loss of their teammate. (12/10)

Please pray for Dr. **Michelle Halley** (pictured with her team below), daughter of **Dale and Ellen DeHaan**. She is on a medical team deployment to refugee camps in the Sudan. (12/10)



PRAY FOR FRIENDS OF MAYFLOWER

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

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

We pray for the families and friends of those who were injured or killed in the recent shooting in NYC and attack in New Orleans on New Year's Day. (1/2)

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

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

THE TRIUNE GOD

148

We Three Kings of Orient Are

John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820–1891, alt.

John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820–1891

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are, Bear - ing
 2. Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, Gold I
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, In - cense
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume Breathes a
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold Him a - rise, King and

gifts we trav - erse a - far Field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown Him a - gain, King for - ev - er,
 owns a De - i - ty nigh; Prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom: Sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and Sac - ri - fice; Al - le - lu - ia,

Moor and moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 Ceas - ing nev - er O - ver us all to reign.
 All men rais - ing, Wor - ship Him, God on high.
 Bleed - ing, dy - ing, Sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of won - der, star of night, Star with

KINGS OF ORIENT
 8.8.4.4.6 with Refrain

Third verse: "Prayer and praising, voices raising"

THE TRIUNE GOD

roy - al beau - ty bright, West - ward lead - ing,
still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to Thy per - fect light.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "roy - al beau - ty bright, West - ward lead - ing,". The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to Thy per - fect light." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand.

Lord Jesus, we are so grateful that You—the One who created the heavens and the earth—chose to put aside Your heavenly glory and willingly humbled Yourself, coming to us as a simple, human child, so that we could experience more tangibly the depth of God’s love for us. Just as the wise men of old traveled far, seeking to worship you, we pray that you will enliven our spirits and guide our steps so that we, too, might seek you and worship you through all that we say and do. Amen.

Rev. Cindy Shepherd

Wise Ones Seek Him

156

Jack Brown and Kerry Price

Piae Cantiones, 1582

1. Wise ones on a jour - ney far, Trav - el from the O - rient,
 2. Her - od hears and is ap - palled, "I am king!" he rag - es,
 3. Know - ing this, the star they seek, Heav'n - ly guid - ance tell - ing;
 4. If we're wise, we'll seek Him, too, On our pil - grim jour - ney.

Fol - low - ing a bright, new star, On a mis - sion rev - 'rent.
 While ad - vis - ors, priests and scribes Coun - sel with the sag - es.
 Till it halts o'er Beth - le - hem Where the Child is dwell - ing.
 He's our Star, our Guide, our King. For our souls He's yearn - ing.

Jeru - sa - lem is where they rest, From their earn - est seek - ing,
 "In a vil - lage south of here Is the place that's men - tioned;
 There they meet the Son of God, Proph - e - cy ful - fill - ing;
 Gold: our gifts of tithe and time. In - cense: prayers and fast - ing.

Ask - ing where would be the best Place to find the new King.
 See, our proph - et Mi - cah writes: "Beth - le - hem is des - tined!"
 Bow - ing down, they wor - ship there, Shar - ing their rich of - f'ring.
 Myrrh: our death to sin which brings New life ev - er - last - ing.

GOOD KING WENCESLAS
7.6.7.6D