

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

January 12, 2025 - 10:30am



THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

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.

PRELUDE

Fountain Reverie
by Percy Fletcher

Dr. Julia Brown

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

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." (Ps. 122:1)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Andy Schutt

Leader: We gather this morning seeking the presence of God, that we may
become more whole and gracious people.

People: **We worship God who said, "Yes" to humankind in Jesus Christ our
friend, teacher, and guide.**

Leader: God has made this day; so let us rejoice and be glad in it.

People: **Glory be to you, O God, now and forevermore!**

Leader: Let us worship God together with joy!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 480* *Shall We Gather at the River*

HANSON PLACE

OPENING PRAYER*

Andy Schutt

Loving and gracious God, who called to Jesus in the waters of the Jordan, we gather in this sacred space with hearts and minds open to your grace. We ask for your presence among us this day, that we might hear your voice in the stillness and feel your Spirit in our midst. As we reflect on the waters of Jesus' baptism today, may we be reminded of our own faith journeys, and the many ways in which you continue to reach out to us to renew and transform us. May we be empowered to live boldly as your disciples, fostering kindness, peace, and love into our relationships and world, just as Jesus did so long ago. 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.**

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

This morning we are pleased to baptize **Huxley Ace DeCoster**, son of Charles DeCoster IV and Heather DeCoster, Godson of Josh and Kelly Cox.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church; for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you, to share the good news of the gospel with you, and to help you know and follow Christ.

HYMN 518

Good Shepherd, Take This Little Child

AMY

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 726

Andy Schutt

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Come to the Water

Rev. Bell Olsson

REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM

ANTHEM

Down to the River to Pray
by arr. Lawson

Chancel Choir

As I went down in the river to pray studying about that good old way
And who shall wear the robe and crown, Good Lord, show me the way!

O brothers let's go down in the river to pray...

O mothers let's go down in the river to pray...

O fathers let's go down in the river to pray...

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Bob Livingston

OFFERTORY HYMN 516

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

WATERLIFE

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. Dr. Livingston

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Livingston

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*

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS



1. Go, my child - ren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2. Go, my child - ren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;
3. I, the Lord, will bless and keep you and give you peace;



Wa - king, sleep - ing, I am with you; you are my own.
grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
I, the Lord, will smile up - on you and give you peace:



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.
I, the Lord, will be your Sav - ior, Com - for - ter, and Friend, and Broth - er.



Go, my child - ren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my child - ren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.
Go, my child - ren, I will keep you and give you peace.

Music: Welsh melody; words: Jaroslav J. Vajda © 1983 Concordia Publ. House, used by permission One License #729334-A

BENEDICTION*

Rev. Bell Olsson

DISMISSAL*

Rev. Bell Olsson

Leader: God has created us and named us and called us Beloved. God has offered us new life, and offered us a path of transformation.

People: **May we go forth, following this path. All praise be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Toccatina Op. 173

Dr. Brown

by Jean-Marie Plum

Looking Ahead

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

Today, January 12

10:30am | Morning Worship

5pm | MS/HS Elevate

JANUARY

- | | |
|---|--|
| 13 Men's Bible Study 7:30am
Women's Bible Study 9:30am
Women's Bible Study 5pm
Men's Bible Study 5pm
<i>Mahjong*</i> 6pm | 15 Caring Connection (formerly Deacons) 9:30am
Midweek 4pm
Mayflower Bells 6pm
<i>Al Anon*</i> 7pm
Chancel Choir 7:30pm |
| 14 Breakfast Club 6:30am
Needlepoint 10am
Worship & Music Mtg. 4pm
<i>CCGR (Chamber Choir)*</i> 5pm
Council Retreat 5:30pm | 16 Congregational Care Mtg. 9am
<i>Women's City Club*</i> 9:30am
Women's Bible Study 10am
Book Discussion 7pm
<i>Boy Scouts*</i> 6:30pm |
| | 17 Men's Bible Study 7am |
| | 19 Sunday Worship 10:30am |

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"!

Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

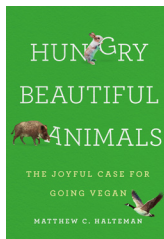
NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a member of Mayflower? Please reach out to office@mayflowerchurch.org to share your interest.

PRESENTATION & BOOK DISCUSSION

JAN. 16 | 7PM

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



CALVIN UNIVERSITY JANUARY SERIES

M-F, 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

LADIES' LUNCHEON | JAN. 21 | 11:30AM

Women's luncheon at 11:30am at Charlie's Bar and Grille. 3519 Plainfield Ave. Call Maris to RSVP 616-821-0413

UPCYCLE EVENT: BIKES & BREWERY

JAN. 23 | 6-8PM

Looking for a fun night out? Join us at Upcycle Bikes on the 23rd 6-8pm to learn how to repair bikes, then we will head over to City Built Brewing Company.

RSVP to Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org



WORKSHOP | JAN. 26 | 12-2PM

Do you want to help those in crisis, but you are afraid you will say or do the wrong thing? Do you desire to be more deeply connected to the people in your life?

The "How to be a Faithful Friend" workshop will address these questions and more! Please join Rev. Dr. Bob Livingston, Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, Betsy Willey and others as we explore how to serve God by being a faithful presence to those we love and care for.

Workshop materials and a light lunch will be provided. All are welcome.

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 Pastor Ruth with any questions.

INTRODUCING THE CARING CONNECTION MINISTRY OF MAYFLOWER

The Caring Connection Ministry with Caring Friends (formerly known as Deacons) purpose is to:

- Assist the senior minister with pastoral care.
- Be present with and befriend those who are homebound, lonely, or those dealing with health concerns, a loss, or a life change.
- Nurture the spirituality of the individuals we are called to befriend.
- Maintain a resource file of helpful information for the ministry.

SAVE THE DATE - ART CAMP | JUNE 9-12

Mark your calendar for Art Camp! Registration will open soon!

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 give praise with the family of **Huxley DeCoster** who was baptized today. (1/12)

It is with great joy that **Gary and Gwen Wallin** announce the birth of Neve Alexandra Jones, born to daughter, Carley, and Alex Jones on Dec. 18, 2024. Born 4 weeks early, mama and baby are doing well. (1/9)

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

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 THOSE WHO MOURN

Karlene Werner, who participated in Mayflower's Chancel Choir and Bell Choir, died Jan. 2. A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, Jan. 11 at Mayflower Church. Please pray for her family as they mourn her death. (1/7)

Paula Gaylord, who was a former Christian Ed. director and Bible study leader at Mayflower, passed away on Jan. 1 after a prolonged battle with cancer. We pray for her family as they mourn her death. (1/7)

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

Pray for the people affected by the wildfires in California. (1/9)

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



Welcome Huxley Ace DeCoster!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

-Matthew 19:14

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.

An Invitation to the Baptismal Sacrament

Do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Will you renounce the powers of evil in order to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Will you be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church; to celebrate Christ's presence, to further Christ's mission in all the world, and to receiving the nurturing of the Christian church?

Name: _____

Email/phone: _____

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

Shall We Gather at the River

Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have
 2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver
 3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den
 4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will

trod, With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing
 spray, We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the
 down; Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro -
 cease, Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the

by the throne of God?
 hap - py gold - en day. Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The
 vide a robe and crown.
 mel - o - dy of peace.

beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er; Gath - er with the

saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

HANSON PLACE
 8.7.8.7 with Refrain

Good Shepherd, Take This Little Child 518

Claire Cloninger, 1942-

Kenneth P. Barker, 1955-

Unison

1. Good Shep-herd, take this lit - tle child In - to Your lov - ing hands;
 2. Good Shep-herd, we com - mit our - selves In ev - 'ry - thing we do
 3. Good Shep-herd, now we place this child In - to Your gen - tle trust;

And in the days that lie a - head Pro - tect this lit - tle lamb.
 To be Your fam - 'ly here on earth And love this child for You.
 This pre - cious gift we give to You Is - one You've giv - en us.

C D7/A G Am Em/G

bap - tized in the name of the Son; come, be bap - tized in the

F6 C/G Dm7 Am/E Dm/F F G C

name of the Spir - it; come, be bap - tized in love.

Unison

1. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be
 2. "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was
 3. "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, Not too

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you

were bap - tized To see your life un - fold. I was
 liv - ing Lord, To whom you now be - long. If you
 through the night, Com - plete what I've be - gun. When the

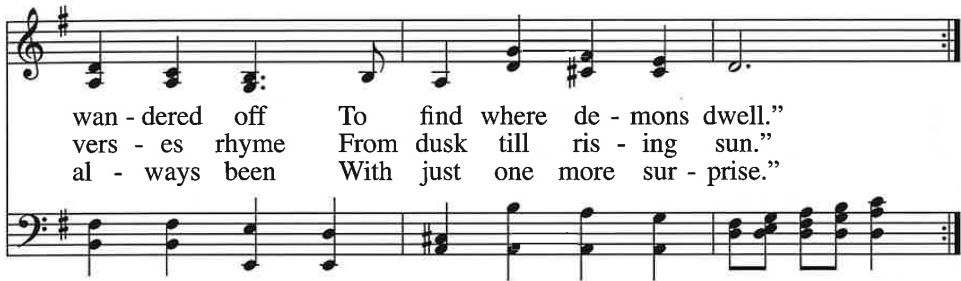
there when you were but a child, With a
 find some - one to share your time And you
 eve - ning gen - tly clos - es in And you

WATERLIFE
 9.7.9.6 D

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE



faith to suit you well; In a blaze of light you
join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your
shut your wea - ry eyes, I'll be there as I have



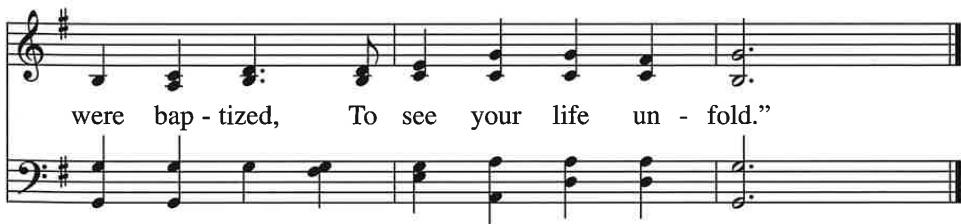
wan - dered off To find where de - mons dwell."
vers - es rhyme From dusk till ris - ing sun."
al - ways been With just one more sur - prise."



4. "I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be



there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you



were bap - tized, To see your life un - fold."