CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

January 26, 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.

Nimrod from Enigma Variations

by Edward Elgar WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE* Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you. Response: And also with you.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

INTROIT

PRELUDE

I Was Glad by Larry Visser

I was glad when they said unto me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Ps. 122:1)

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God's hands.
- People: Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.
- Leader: They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.
- People: Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.
- Leader: In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course.
- People: It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.
 - All: All praise be to God for the heavens, the sun, moon and sky. We see and honor God's glory.

Rachael Cooley

Chancel Choir

Chris Yates

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson

Dr Julia Brown

OPENING PRAYER* (read in unison)

We come to you now, God of all things, and we prepare ourselves for what you have in store for us. Open our eyes, ears, and hearts for your Word. Help us to see, hear and follow your perfect commands. 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.

ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me by Thomas Tallis (ca. 1505-1585)

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may abide with you forever, even the spirit of truth. (John 14:15-17)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 37:1-4 PEW BIBLE, PAGE 727 Luke 4:14-24 PEW BIBLE, PAGE 28

Leader: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God!

Spirit of the Living God

Life is Difficult: Learning from Joseph and Jesus Rev. Bell Olsson

HYMN 226*

SERMON

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Eternal King by Jane Marshall

My God, I love Thee; not because I hope for heaven thereby, nor yet because who love Thee not must die eternally. Thou, O my Jesus, Thou didst me upon the cross embrace; for me didst bear the nails and spear, and manifold disgrace.

Why, then why, O blessed Jesus Christ, should I not love Thee well? Not for the hope of winning heaven or of escaping hell; not with the hope of gaining aught, not seeking a reward; but as Thyself hast loved me, o ever-loving Lord! 'en so I love Thee, and will love, and in Thy praise will sing, solely because Thou art my God, and my Eternal King.

Rachael Cooley

Chris Yates

Chancel Choir

Rev. Bell Olsson

IVERSON

Chancel Choir

Chris Yates

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
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.		
HYMN 547*	Lord of the Church, We Pray for Our Renewing	LONDONDERRY AIR
BENEDICTION*		Rev. Bell Olsson
DISMISSAL*		Rev. Bell Olsson
	You are beloved. May you go forth assured of this, and may God's love overflow to those you encounter. We are assured. Thanks be to God. Amen.	
POSTLUDE	<i>Fugue in A minor</i> by J. S. Bach	Dr. Brown

The altar flowers are placed today by Patty Sienstra in loving memory of her husband, Dale Bensted.

Looking Ahead

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

Today, January 26

10:30am | Morning Worship12pm | Faithful Friend Workshop5pm | MS/HS Elevate

JANUARY

- 27 Men's Bible Study | 7:30am
 Women's Bible Study | 9:30am
 January Series LiveStream | 12:30pm
 Women's Bible Study | 5pm
 Men's Bible Study | 5pm
 Mahj in the Mitten* | 6pm
- Breakfast Club | 6:30am
 Needlepoint | 10am
 January Series LiveStream | 12:30pm
 CCGR (Chamber Choir)* | 5pm
 Council Mtg. | 6:30pm

Thank you from Safe Haven Ministries

Thank you to all who donated pillows for the Christmas Eve offering. They are truly appreciated!



- 29 January Series LiveStream | 12:30pm
 Midweek | 4pm
 Mayflower Bells | 6pm
 Al Anon* | 7pm
 Chancel Choir | 7:30pm
- 30 Women's City Club* | 9:30am
 Women's Bible Study | 10am
 January Series LiveStream | 12:30pm
 Boy Scouts* | 6:30pm
 Pilates* | 7pm
- **31** Men's Bible Study | 7am Joyful Sounds* | 9:15am Joyful Sounds* | 10:30am January Series LiveStream | 12:30pm

We had a wonderful presentation from Matt Halteman, author of *Hungry Beautiful Animals: The Joyful Case for Going Vegan.*



Announcements and Upcoming Events

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

WORKSHOP | TODAY | 12PM

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.

PILATES AT MAYFLOWER | JAN. 30 | 7PM

Join us for pilates in the Atrium with Amy Donohue from Bovee Pilates (formerly East Pilates). Please bring a mat, wear comfortable/ exercise clothes, and wear socks or bare feet.

A free will offering will be taken for Safe Haven Ministries (cash or check accepted). Safe Haven cares for women and children who have fled environments of domestic violence.

CALVIN UNIVERSITY JANUARY SERIES JAN. 27-31 | 12:30PM

We will live-stream the Calvin January Series Monday-Friday in the chapel. For a synopsis of each speaker, visit *calvin.edu/january-series/ speakers*

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 CARING FRIENDS A MINISTRY OF MAYFLOWER

Caring Friends is the ministry formerly known as Deacons. Contact Murry Idema for more information.

SAVE THE DATE - ART CAMP | JUNE 9-12

Mark your calendar for Art Camp! Registration is open! mayflowerchurch.org/artcamp

NEW MEMBER CLASS

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

WORKSHOP |



TODAY | 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 Caring Friends. Light lunch provided.

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

Dale and Ellen DeHaan's daughter, **Michelle**, has arrived safely home from her medical mission to Sudan. Their granddaughter, **Rebekah**, will continue to serve there for a couple weeks. (1/14)

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

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for long time member, **Helen Bellows** as she resides in hospice care at Clark on Keller Lake. (1/14)

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Rev. Sara A. Fetty, passed away peacefully in her home on Jan. 12. Her memorial service was Jan. 25 at Park Congregational Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev. Maurice Fetty and family as they mourn her death. (1/14) **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

We pray for the alleviation of suffering. (1/22)

We pray for peace in places of conflict. (1/22)

We pray for the wisdom and compassion of world leaders. (1/22)

We pray for a successful cease fire in Gaza and the de-escalation of violence. (1/16)

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

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!

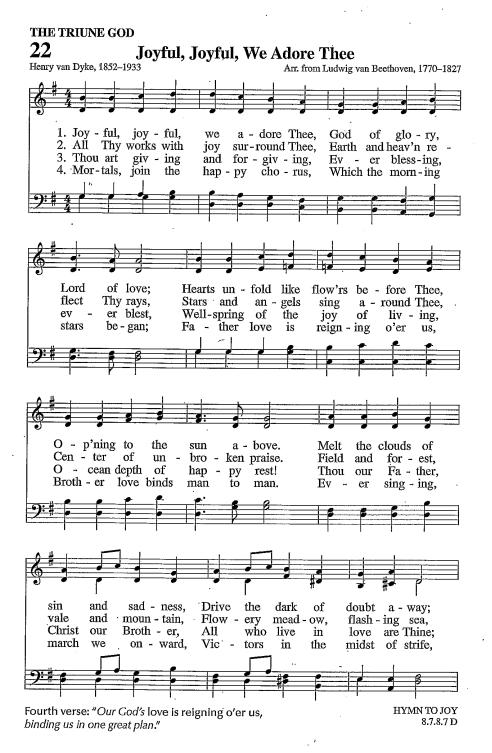
- **WELCOME!** If this is your first time worshiping with us, please stop by the Welcome Center in the narthex outside the sanctuary if you have questions about our church. You are invited to join us after the service for refreshments and fellowship in the atrium.
- **HEARING ASSISTANCE** is available 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"!

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

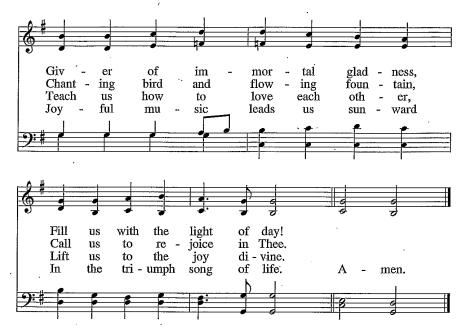
cover art from: bible.art



THE FATHER

Praise to God

THE TRIUNE GOD



Good and gracious God, we come to You with thanksgiving for all Your many blessings. We are surrounded this day, and every day, with signs of Your truth and power. Open our eyes, ears and hearts to the glory of Your love. We thank You especially for:

The beauty and power of Your creation.

The gift of Christ, who brings peace and life.

The work of Your Holy Spirit, guiding us and bringing us insights to Your will.

The bright faith of new believers, the abiding devotion of Your loyal followers,

and all companions on our journeys of discipleship.

All relationships of love and caring, teaching us of Your love.

The satisfaction of work well done.

Opportunities, courage, and energy to serve You and share Your love.

The ministries of our church, reaching out in faithful service in Your name. The gifts of our leaders, ministers, teachers, musicians, and administrators. Each member of our church, created by You in special ways for faith and service.

And for all the particular blessings of this day.

God of joy, our hearts are filled to overflowing with the fullness of Your blessings. Give us the strength, courage, and power to live as You have created us, transformed according to Your holy will. We offer these prayers of praise in the name of Jesus our Redeemer. Amen.

Rev. Susan LeFeber

Praise to God



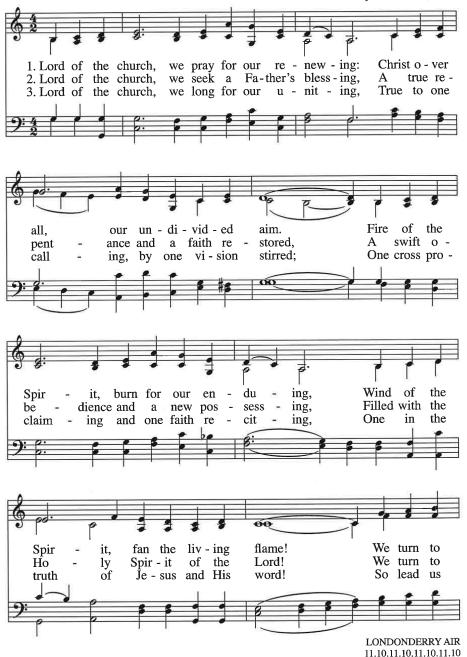
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THE HOLY SPIRIT

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE 547 Lord of the Church, We Pray for Our Renewing

Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1936-

Traditional Irish Melody Arr. by John Barnard, 1948–



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Renewal

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

