

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

COMMUNION SUNDAY

February 2, 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

“Love is not only something you feel, it is something you do.” -David Wilkerson

PRELUDE

Be Still, My Soul
by Sibelius, arr. Endean

Mayflower Bells

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

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Matt Dhaseleer

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

Judy Schneider

Leader: As we gather this morning in the welcome of God’s love, as we gather in the joy of our unity in Christ, as we gather in the power of the Spirit, let us rejoice together and listen for the voice of God.

People: Let us worship God, who has spoken to us in the past and even now speaks to those who attend to the thunder and whisper of the Holy One.

Leader: Let us worship God together in joy.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 47* *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

FAITHFULNESS

OPENING PRAYER*

Judy Schneider

Inspire us, O God, this morning, through the ministry of music, message, song, and prayer, and through the presence of your Spirit that causes our hearts to overflow with praise and thanksgiving. May we be absorbed within the mystery and wonder of your uplifting love and gracious presence. Lift us to the higher realm of compassion, service, and love, in the name of the One who is your Word made flesh amongst us, even Jesus Christ, our Lord and Eternal Friend. 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

I Corinthians 13:1-13
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 813

Judy Schneider

(read in unison)

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Love Connects

Rev. Dr. Livingston

HYMN 292*

The Gift of Love

GIFT OF LOVE

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Livingston

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Great Thou Art
by Dan Forest

Chancel Choir

Text for this anthem may be found in the hymnal #27

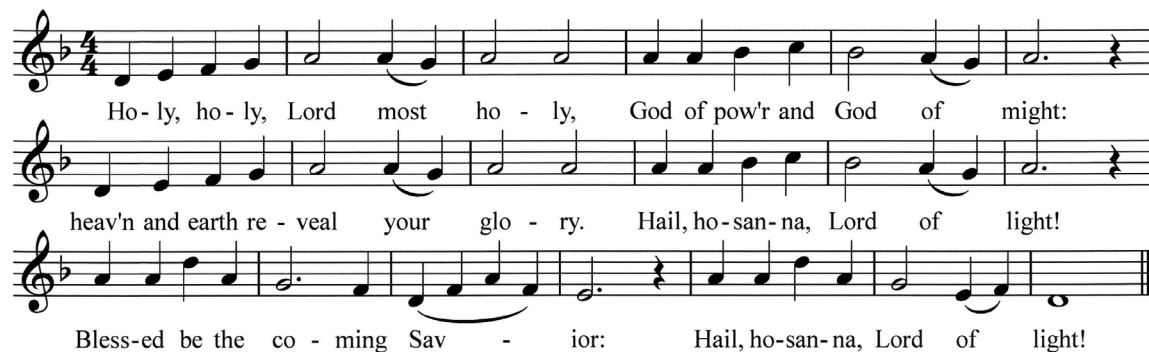
DOXOLOGY*

**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

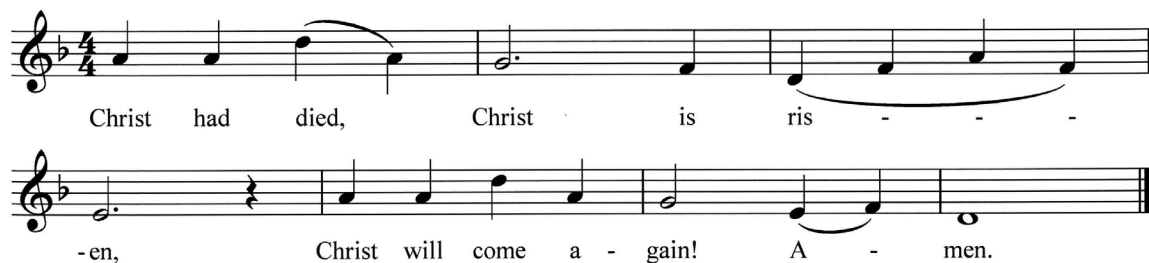
(Our sacramental elements are gluten-free bread and grape juice)

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

(Because of the current floor construction, you will receive the elements this morning in your pews.)

COMMUNION ANTHEM *In This Moment of Remembrance* Chancel Choir by Dale Wood

In this moment of remembrance the sacrament is spread;
here we celebrate Christ's presence through the wine and bread. At this table of communion,
in the light shed from above we are sheltered in his mercy and surrounded by his love.

There is healing and forgiveness, there is strength as we partake; here we know the Savior's promise
that he never will forsake. "Take and do this in remembrance." are the words that Christ our Savior said;
and we join now in his presence through the wine and broken bread. "Take and do this in remembrance of me."

COMMUNION MUSIC *Meditation on Ubi Caritas* Dr. Brown by Larry Visser

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. For
thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

HYMN 48* *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* BEECHER

BENEDICTION* Rev. Dr. Livingston

**Love connects us to God and love connects us to others. Let us leave here this
morning embraced by the love of God and committed to loving God with all
our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourself.**

DISMISSAL* Rev. Dr. Livingston

Leader: You are beloved. May you go forth assured of this, and may God's
love overflow to those you encounter.

People: **We are assured. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

POSTLUDE *Fantasia and Fugue in F Major* Dr. Brown by Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780)

Looking Ahead

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

Today, February 2

10:30am | Morning Worship

5pm | MS/HS Elevate

FEBRUARY

3 Men's Bible Study | 7:30am

Women's Bible Study | 9:30am

Women's Bible Study | 5pm

Men's Bible Study | 5pm

4 Breakfast Club | 6:30am

Needlepoint | 10am

*CCGR (Chamber Choir)** | 5pm

*Mahj in the Mitten** | 6pm

5 Midweek | 4pm

Mayflower Bells | 6pm

*Al Anon** | 7pm

Chancel Choir | 7:30pm

6 *Women's City Club** | 9:30am

Women's Bible Study | 10am

*Boy Scouts** | 6:30pm

7 Men's Bible Study | 7am

*Joyful Sounds** | 9:15am

*Joyful Sounds** | 10:30am

9 Sunday Worship | 10:30am

Confirmation Mtg. | 11:30am

Elevate Superbowling

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

Mayflower news and 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.

BOY SCOUT SUNDAY | FEB. 9

We welcome Boy Scout Troop 271 to our service next Sunday.

CONFIRMATION MEETING | FEB. 9

A Confirmation information meeting will be held next Sunday, Feb. 9 following the service. Students in 8th grade and older are invited. Reach out to Pastor Ruth with any questions.

GROWNUPS GATHER (formerly 49UP) | FEB 16

Join us at Karen and Tom Roth's home for brunch on Sunday, Feb. 16 after church. Come by for a cup of coffee and egg strata. 1104 Idema Dr., RSVP Karen 616-581-1576

INTRODUCING CARING FRIENDS A MINISTRY OF MAYFLOWER

Caring Friends is the ministry formerly known as Deacons. For more information contact Murry@MayflowerChurch.org.

SAVE THE DATE - ART CAMP | JUNE 9-12

Registration is open for Art Camp! Sign up today at mayflowerchurch.org/artcamp



Mayflower ART CAMP!

JUNE 9-12 | 9am-12pm | REGISTRATION FEE \$75/Child
Rising Kindergarteners-5th grade

Experience God's creativity in playful new ways that will bring inspiration and joy! Engage in 12 different art forms to grow imagination and expand your world.

- Drumming
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Cooking
- Gardening
- Painting
- Creating art

AND SO MUCH MORE!



mayflowerchurch.org/artcamp
2345 ROBINSON RD. SE | 616.459.6255

MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Say "Hi" to David!

David Schellenberg has been working as part of the facilities team for about 6 months, and starting Sunday, Feb. 2, he'll be working on Sunday mornings as well! If you see him running around before church or during coffee hour, please be sure to welcome him!

Priscilla Circle | 1st Wednesdays at 11am

Priscilla Circle is a service group of women who meet at church the first Wednesday of every month at 11am. Everyone brings a lunch to eat together following the meeting. All are invited to join at any time!



SCOUT SUNDAY | FEB. 9



We look forward to troop 271 leading worship alongside us next Sunday! We are so thankful for their continued partnership throughout the year.

Caring Friends Workshop



Last Sunday we had a wonderful **Caring Friends** (formerly Deacons) workshop with 28 people in attendance. Pastor Ruth, Pastor Bob, and Betsy Willey led table groups and conducted breakout sessions to role play real life scenarios of caring for one another. We look forward to additional workshops in the future!

Children and Youth at Mayflower



Students in **Sunday School** are learning The Lord's Prayer and discovering that the Ten Commandments are God's way of caring for us.



Midweek Chimes begin Wed., Feb. 5 at 4pm! Come and join us for our winter/spring session!





LENT BY CANDLELIGHT

6:30 pm *Simple Meal* | 7:00 pm *Music*

MONDAYS
AT
MAYFLOWER

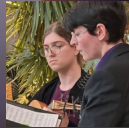
Join us on Monday evenings and add stillness and peace to your Lenten season. Free and open to all.



MARCH 10
KAROLIN RAVENS-BANIK, *flute*
JULIA BROWN, *piano*



MARCH 17
DEEDEE TIBBITS
hammered dulcimer



MARCH 24
DUO TARASQUE
Howell Petty, voice; Luce Burrell, lute



APRIL 7
ALICIA EPPINGA, *cello*
JEREMY VERWYS, *guitar*

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES

March 5 | 6pm
Ash Wednesday

Sundays | 10:30am

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 13 | 10:30am
Palm Sunday

April 17 | 6pm
Mundy Thursday

April 18 | 6pm
Good Friday

April 20 | 10:30am
Easter Sunday

THE CALL

Join us this Lenten season as we respond to THE CALL to dive deeper into our faith

EVERYONE WELCOME
Mayflower is an
inclusive congregation

MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2345 Robinson Road SE, GR, MI 49506
616-459-6255 | MayflowerChurch.org

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 and ask for prayers for **Chris and Doug Congdon's** new grandson, Oliver Douglas Hinkel, born on Jan. 26. Oliver was admitted to the NICU as his liver matures and can regulate his bilirubin levels. (1/28)

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

Remember our outreach partner **Pastor Marcel** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo where his city has been siezed by rebels. Pray for peace and protection. (1/28)

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)

Council Update

At the Jan. 28 Council Meeting we approved the 2025 budget, copies are available in the office. We are working on our Mission, Vision and Core Values from our Retreat with Bob Livingston. All of our committees are doing amazing work for all of us on our behalf. We'd like to highlight and thank the House & Grounds and Worship & Music Committees for working together on the flooring insurance claim.

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.

Reflections and Revolutions - A Note from Pastor Ruth

Dear Mayflower Family,

As I enter the sixth month of my interim season as your pastor, my heart is full.

In reflection, the energetic launch of our fall ministry season, the emotional vulnerability of our All Saints Sunday, and the glowing heart of our Thanksgiving worship service were holy surprises. I have also heard from many of you that our Advent season was the best one yet. And, how do I even begin to unpack the layers of beauty as the vast majority of you came forward to affirm your baptism on Sunday, January 12?

This is a foundation of such goodness and grace it takes my breath away.

We now have experienced a revolution of one year to the next and it is with great hope and anticipation we look forward to more spiritual growth, expanded community offerings, and a church ready for what God has in store for us as we prepare for “The Call” of Lent.

As I say often: the best is yet to come for Mayflower.

Are we ready?

Thank you and bless you,

Ruth

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

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Lamentations 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
 Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

As Thou has been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
 Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

FAITHFULNESS
 11.10.11.10 with Refrain

THE TRIUNE GOD

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!

Morn-ing by morn-ing new mer-cies I see,

All I have need-ed Thy hand hath pro-vid-ed-

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me! A-men.

The Gift of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-3
Hal H. Hopson, 1933-

Traditional English Melody
Adapt. by Hal H. Hopson, 1933-

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,
3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,

And have the gift to all in - spire,
And striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
Our spir - its long to be made whole.

And have not love, my words are vain,
But not be giv'n by love with - in,
Let in - ward love guide ev - 'ry deed;

As sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
The prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
By this we wor - ship, and are freed.

GIFT OF LOVE
LM

© 1972, Hope Publishing Company

Relationships, Marriage, and Family

IN SOCIETY

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - 'ry
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less

earth come down, Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing,
 trou - bled breast; Let us all in Thee in - her - it,
 life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
 let us be; Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion

All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown; Je - sus, Thou art
 Let us find Thy prom - ised rest; Take a - way the
 Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry

all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
 love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,
 in - to glo - ry, Till in heav'n we take our place,

BEECHER
 8.7.8.7 D

THE TRIUNE GOD

Vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion,
End of faith, as its be - gin - ning,
Pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing,
Till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee,

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff contains a melody of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass staff contains a bass line of quarter notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2.

En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
Lost in won - der, love, and praise. A - men.

The second system of music continues the melody and bass line. The treble staff melody is: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass staff bass line is: G2, A2, B2, C3, B2, A2, G2. The system concludes with a double bar line.