

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

JANUARY 25, 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Bold text or music score indicates congregational response.

Prayer request cards may be placed in the offering and will be added to our prayer list.

As you enter the sanctuary quietly, we invite you to prepare your hearts for worship.

Please silence all devices and be present with us.

If you need to step out, the service is live-streamed in the Chapel.

PRELUDE

When Morning Gilds the Skies
by Dale Wood

Dr. Julia Brown

WELCOME AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Kent Dobson

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Rachael Cooley

INTROIT

Preces
by Philip Stopford

Chancel Choir

O Lord, open thou our lips. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Praise ye the Lord. The Lord's Name be praised.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 40)

Colette Hages

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: The Lord is our light and our salvation.

Leader: In the long night of waiting, God has not been silent.

People: We seek the face of the Lord.

Leader: With those who kept watch and prayed for redemption,

People: We come to worship and to hope.

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord.

People: We wait for you, O God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 60 (stand as you are able) *When Morning Gilds the Skies* LAUDES DOMINI

OPENING PRAYER (remain standing)

Ingrid Nelson

Leader: Simeon received the Christ Child into his arms, and Anna, the prophetess, proclaimed Christ to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. Give us arms like Simeon, and voices like Anna. May our waiting be met by your presence, and our lives spill over into praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

GLORIA PATRI (remain standing)

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

Luke 2:33-40

Ingrid Nelson

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 725

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

SERMON


For the Redemption of Jerusalem

Rev. Dobson


HYMN (stand as you are able)

Now Let Your Servant

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM



1. Now let your ser - vant go in peace; let praise and bless - ing here in - crease; for
2. Be - fore the peo - ples you pre - pare your way of life which all may share. Your
3. Child, you are cho - sen as a sign to test the hu - man heart and mind; for
4. Now let us sing our Sav - iour's praise, and tell God's good - ness all our days. While



in our midst your word is done and you have sent your Prom - ised One.
sav - ing power is now made known; a - mong the na - tions love is shown.
se - crets hid - den in the night shall be re - vealed in pier - cing light.
breath is ours, let praise be heard for God's own faith - ful, sav - ing word.

Music: Sarum plainsong; Words: Ruth Duck, 1978; © 1992 GIA Publ., Inc, used by permission One License #729334-A

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Dobson

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Nunc Dimittis in B flat (Song of Simeon)*

Chancel Choir

by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

DOXOLOGY (stand as you are able)

**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.**

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Rev. Dobson

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 57 (stand as you are able)

Fairest Lord Jesus

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU

BENEDICTION (remain standing)

Rev. Dobson

POSTLUDE

Introduction and Choral on Fairest Lord Jesus
by Daniel Olson (1898-1978)

Dr. Brown

Today's altar flowers are given by Patty Sienstra in loving memory of her husband, Dale.

Please join us for coffee in the Atrium after the service. All are Welcome!

If you would like to provide cookies for the Sunday reception,
please email Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org

MIDWEEK WEDNESDAYS @ 4:30PM

"Rooted: How to Grow Secure Kids in a Wobbly World"

Plan on joining us on Wednesdays at 4:30pm in the Chapel for the learning series, "Rooted: How to Grow Secure Kids in a Wobbly World".



JAN. 28 | Emotional Wholeness: Meeting Kids in Big Feelings

FEB. 4 | Mind, Body, and Spirit Connection

FEB. 11 | Nature and the Art of Growing Up

FEB. 18 | Creating Community for the Journey

Each session will be facilitated by Melissa VanderZyden, LMSW; Pastor Ruth Bell Olsson; Pastor Kent Dobson; and Rachael Cooley. Parents, Grandparents, and all those who care about children and youth are invited to join throughout the series.

MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2345 Robinson Rd. SE, GR, MI 49506
616.459.6255 | mayflowerchurch.org

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Sundays | 9-10am | Chapel
March 1 and 8

- CHILDCARE AVAILABLE IN THE NURSERY -

**Whether you are new to Mayflower,
ready to become a member, or just curious to learn more -
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

To reserve your spot call 616-459-6255 or email office@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 celebrate with **Ponstein family** on the baptism of Eloise and Bryn on Jan. 11.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Carol VerMeulen asks for prayers as she is in Emmanuel Hospice Care with stage 4 lung cancer. (1/13)

Jane Henderson is home and in hospice care. (1/6)

Chuck Henry fell on Christmas Day and fractured his hip. Please keep him in your prayers as he recovers. (1/6)

We pray for **Vivian Reed's family**. Her son is recovering from a serious fall; we pray for his continued health and strength. (12/16)

Lindy Crandell is struggling with a lung disease and heart issues. She welcomes our prayers for strength to face the journey ahead. (1/6)

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Leona Naylor passed away on Jan. 3. There will be a funeral at Mayflower on January 31 at 2pm. (1/10)

Eric Britcher passed away on Jan. 1. Keep his family in prayer as they mourn his passing. A memorial service was held at Mayflower on Jan. 10. (1/6)

Mary Crane passed away Dec. 28. Pray for her family and friends as they mourn her death. (1/6)

Ginger Jane Mohney, passed away peacefully on Dec. 26. We pray for her family and friends as they mourn her passing. (1/6)

PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY & OUR WORLD

We acknowledge that there is a tremendous amount of turmoil here at home and around the world. We pray for courage and wisdom for our leaders - those in our community, state, and nation. We pray for the peace of Christ to reign in our world.



PRAYER, NATURE, and THE SOUL FEB. 28 | 9am-3pm | \$40 | LUNCH PROVIDED

Join Kent Dobson for a **ONE-DAY RETREAT** (9am-3pm) on February 28. This retreat is designed to be a break from ordinary life. We'll explore a deeper spiritual life through the natural world, new approaches to prayer, and some teaching around how the Soul is formed and shaped. The retreat

will be held at the beautiful **Franciscan Life Process Center** in Lowell, MI - a short drive out of town. **Please RSVP by Feb. 23** by contacting the office (616.459.6255 or office@mayflowerchurch.org).



Weekly Calendar

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

Today, January 25

10:30am | Sunday Worship

4pm | Elevate and Confirmation Class - GoGo's RePlay Toys

Please drop off/pick up @ Gogo's 400 Ann St NW

Students can bring toy donations. Dinner provided.

THIS WEEK

26 Women's Bible Study | 9:30am

Search Committee mtg. | 12pm

Women's Bible Study | 5pm

Men's Bible Study | 5pm

27 Breakfast Club | 6:30am

Men's Bible Study | 8am

Needlepoint & Stitching | 10am

*Cub Scouts** | 6pm

Council mtg. | 6:30pm

28 *Sisters of Faith** | 10:30am

Midweek | 4:30pm

Mayflower Bells | 6:30pm

*Al-Anon** | 7pm

Chancel Choir | 7:30pm

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

Women's Bible Study | 10am

*Boy Scouts** | 6:30pm

30 Men's Bible Study | 7am



COMMUNION PREPARERS NEEDED

Are you looking for a way to give back to church? We are looking for two people to join our Communion Preparation Team. This role rotates on the first Sunday of the month and only requires a few hours of your time. For more information, call the church office 616-459-6255.

Mayflower Small Groups: *Building Community*

Get plugged into Mayflower, consider joining one of the following small groups. To get involved, contact the church office (616-459-6255 or office@MayflowerChurch.org). These groups meet on a regular basis either at the church, or a restaurant, or someone's home, if noted. For up to date information, check the web calendar.

29UP (For ages 29+)

Adults gather for a time of food and fellowship at various locations.

69UP (For ages 69+)

Adults gather for a time of food and fellowship at various locations.

Chancel Choir – Wednesdays | 7:30pm

Doubts on Draft

3rd Thursday of the month | 5pm

Next meeting: Feb 19

Vivant Brewery (925 Cherry St. SE)

Have questions about faith, spirituality, the Bible, your own story? Gather with Pastor Kent Dobson over a pint for informal conversation and community.

Grown-ups Gather & Graze (For ages 49+)

Next meeting: Feb 6 at 5pm

Dan & Marjie Gell's (3579 Hidden Lake Ln.)

Adults gather for a time of food and fellowship. Our fun and fellowship will be Caribbean themed. Please bring an appetizer and beverage of your choice. RSVP: Patty Sienstra (psienstra@gmail.com).

High School Breakfast Club – Tuesdays | 6:30am

High school students meet at Wolfgang's restaurant for breakfast.

Ladies' Luncheon

Women of all ages and stages gather for a time of food and fellowship at various local restaurants.

LGBTQ Support Circle

4th Thursday of the month | 6pm | Library

Next meeting: Feb. 26 at 6pm

Support for parents, grandparents, and friends of LGBTQ. This group is open to any who are seeking community as they support their LGBTQ loved ones.

Mayflower Bells – Wednesdays | 6:30pm

Navigating Grief Support Group

2nd Tuesday of the month | 6:30pm | Chapel

Next meeting: Feb 10

Betsy Willey facilitates the group covering themes related to grief and offers supportive practices. Join us if you are experiencing loss of any kind or supporting someone struggling with grief.

Needlepoint & Stitching – Tuesdays | 10am | Atrium

Priscilla Circle

1st Wednesday of the month | 11am

Next meeting: Feb. 4

The women of Mayflower's Priscilla Circle volunteer and raise funds for causes associated with the church and our community.

Women's Bible Studies

Mondays | 9:30am | Cindy DeBoer

Mondays | 5pm | Helen Bell

Thursdays | 10am | Pastor Steve Armfield

Men's Bible Studies

Mondays | 5pm

Tuesdays | 8am

Fridays | 7am

Partnering Organization Small Groups

These groups meet at Mayflower on a regular basis.

AI-Anon – Wednesdays | 7pm | Parlor

Boy Scout Troop 271 – Thursdays | 7:30pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesdays | 6pm

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS

Your generous gifts ensure Mayflower's current and future ministry. Thank you.

For your convenience we offer 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.



2026 Mayflower Church Commitment Campaign

ASPIRATIONAL GOAL:

\$1,650,000
\$1,500,000
\$1,350,000
\$1,200,000
\$1,050,000
\$900,000
\$750,000
\$600,000
\$450,000
\$300,000
\$150,000

TOTAL PROJECTED
INCOME
\$1,335,000

(UPDATED JANUARY 8, 2026)

\$1,015,000
194 COMMITMENTS
+\$50,000
MATCH
\$1,065,000

NON-COMMITMENT
INCOME EXPECTED
\$270,000

MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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2345 Robinson Rd SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506 | 616-459-6255 | MayflowerChurch.org

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson, Senior Pastor | Rev. Kent Dobson, Interim Associate Pastor

Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music and Organist | Rachael Cooley, Executive Administrator

Amy Dunham, Office Manager | Andy Ely, Business Manager | Murry Idema, Director of Congregational Care

Kristen Van Stee, Communications Coordinator | David Schellenberg and Kathy Tetzlaff, Facilities

Scott Bosscher, Chancel Choir Director | Dr. Mark Webb and Melia Colwell, Midweek Choir Directors

Brennen Kartes, Director of Midweek Bells | Aaron Wheeler, Children's Choir Accompanist

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.

THE TRIUNE GOD

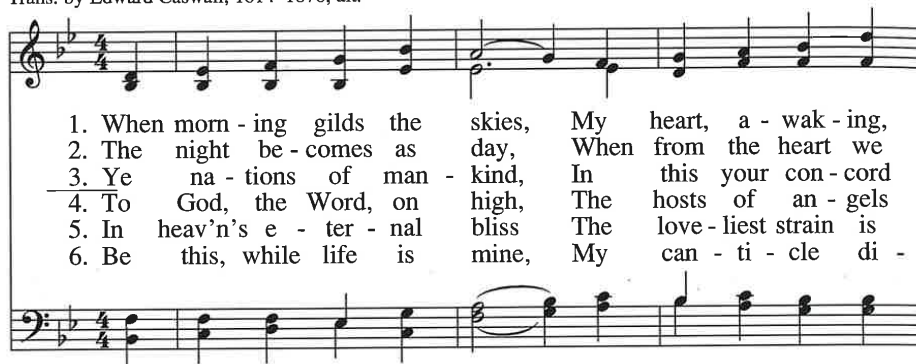
60

When Morning Gilds the Skies

German Traditional, 1828

Joseph Barnby, 1838-1896

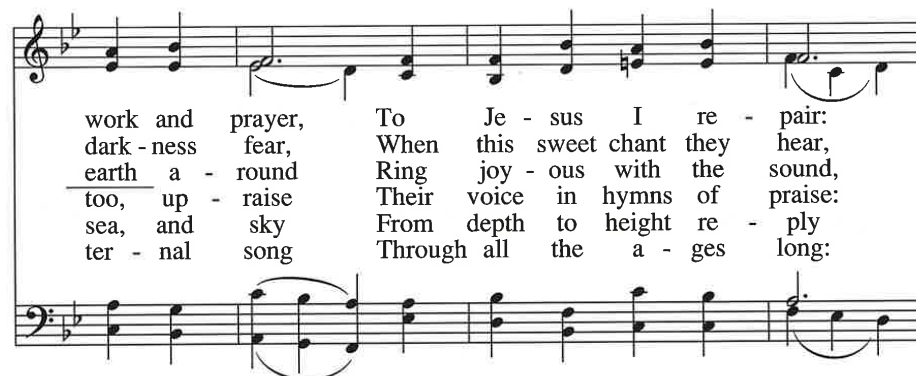
Trans. by Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt.



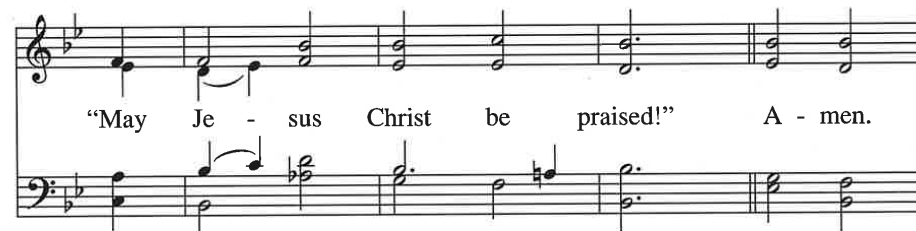
1. When morn - ing gilds the skies, My heart, a - wak - ing,
 2. The night be - comes as day, When from the heart we
 3. Ye na - tions of man - kind, In this your con - cord
 4. To God, the Word, on high, The hosts of an - gels
 5. In heav'n's e - ter - nal bliss The love - liest strain is
 6. Be this, while life is mine, My can - ti - cle di -



cries, "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" A - like at
 say, "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" The pow'rs of
 find, "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Let all the
 cry: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Let mor - tals,
 this, "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Let air, and
 vine: "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" Be this the e -



work and prayer, To Je - sus I re - pair:
 dark - ness fear, When this sweet chant they hear,
 earth a - round Ring joy - ous with the sound,
 too, up - raise Their voice in hymns of praise:
 sea, and sky From depth to height re - ply
 ter - nal song Through all the a - ges long:



"May Je - sus Christ be praised!" A - men.

LAUDES DOMINI

6.6.6.6.6.6

THE SON

Praise to Jesus Christ

Fairest Lord Jesus

57

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677

Trans. by Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904

Schlesische Volkslieder, 1842

Arr. by Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900, alt.

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
 2. Fair are the mead - ows, Fair - er still the wood - lands,
 3. Fair is the sun - shine, Fair - er still the moon - light,

O Thou of God and man the Son,
 Robed in the bloom - ing garb of spring:
 And all the twin - kling, star - ry host:

Thee will I cher - ish, Thee will I hon - or, Thou,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er, Who
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er, Than

my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
 makes the woe - ful heart to sing.
 all the an - gels heav'n can boast. A - men.

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU

5.6.8.5.5.8