

# MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8, 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.***

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### PRELUDE

*Go Down, Moses*  
by Peter Wolf

Julia Brown, piano

### WELCOME

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson and Rachael Cooley

### INTROIT

*Jesu, Grant Me This, I Pray*  
by Orlando Gibbons

Chancel Choir

Jesu, grant me this, I pray, ever in thy heart to stay;  
let me evermore abide, hidden in thy wounded side.

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 95

Robin Dhaseleer

Leader: O come, let us sing to the LORD

**People: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!**

Leader: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving

**People: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

**ALL: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.**

**HYMN 19** (stand as you are able) *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

NETTLETON

**OPENING PRAYER**

Robin Dhaseleer

Holy and merciful God, in this season of Lent we make small sacrifices and develop new habits in an attempt to draw closer to you. Meet us in this space and help us in our efforts. May we be desperate to know you and to live our lives focused on your priorities not our own. **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**

Exodus 17:1-7

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 52

John 4:7-15

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 752

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Robin Dhaseleer

**SERMON**

*"Three Questions"*

Rev. Bell Olsson

# ANTHEM

# Moses

# Chancel Choir

words and music by Ken Medema

Old Moses, 'way back there in the wilderness, saw some smoke, came to the bush, and the bush was burnin'. God said, "Take off your shoes, Moses, you're on holy ground. Moses, I've chosen you to be my man, Moses, 'way down in Egypt's land. Moses, I've chosen you to work for me, Moses, I've chosen you to set my people free!" "Not me, Lord! Don't you know I can't talk so good; I stutter all the time. Do you know my brother, Aaron? He can sing like an angel, Talk like a preacher. Not me, Lord! I can't talk so good. And another thing, How will they know that I've been here with you? How will they know what you've sent me to do? Don't you know that in Egypt, they want little Moses' head? Don't you know that in Egypt, they want little Moses dead? Don't you know they'll never hear a single word I'll say! Maybe you'd get your dirty work done another way! Not me, Lord! "What's that in your hand, Moses?" "It's just a rod." "Throw it down, Moses." "Do you mean, like, on the ground?" "Yes, I said, throw it down, Moses." "Lord, don't take my rod away from me, Don't you know it's my only security? Don't you know when you live here all alone, A man's gotta have something he can call his own; Not me, Lord!" "Throw it down, Moses."

"But, Lord, I ..." "Throw it down, Moses." "But ..." "Throw it down, Moses." Moses throw the rod on the ground And the rod became a hissing snake! Well, Moses started runnin'. Well, maybe you'd run. You'd run. Well, maybe I'd run. I'd run. He was a-runnin' from a hot rod! Runnin' from a hissing snake! Runnin' scared of what God's gonna do! Runnin' scared He'll get a hold of you! And the Lord said, "Stop, Pick it up, Moses, by the tail!" "Lord, you have not lived here very long! Lord, you've got the whole thing wrong! Don't you know that you never pick up a hissing snake by his ..." "Pick it up, Moses!" Oh, God, it's a rod again, it's a rod again, it's a rod again! "Do you know what it means, Moses? Do you know what I'm trying to say, Moses? The rod of Moses became the rod of God! With the rod of God, strike the rock and the water will come; With the rod of God, part the waters of the sea; With the rod of God, you can strike old Pharaoh dead; With the rod of God, you can set the people free." What do you hold in your hand today? To what or to whom are you bound? Are you willing to give it to God right now? Give it up, Give it up, let it go, let it go, Throw it down.

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

### CALL TO PRAYER (sung by all)

Rev. Bell Olsson

*Cantor:*

Come now, and dwell with us Lord Christ Je - sus

First time choir, second time ALL:

Hear our prayer and be with us al - ways.

Music by Anthony Crossland

## 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.**

## CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Bell Olsson

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*O Love*

Chancel Choir

by Elaine Hagenberg

O Love, that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;

I give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.

O joy, that seeks me through the pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.

## 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.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE (stand as you are able)

Rev. Bell Olsson

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

**Response: And also with you.**

## HYMN 432 (remain standing)

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

CWM RHONDDA

## BENEDICTION

Rev. Bell Olsson

## POSTLUDE

*CWM RHONDDA*

Dr. Brown

arr. Paul Manz

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**Please join us for coffee and cookies 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](mailto:Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org)

# LENTEN OUTREACH

## FILL THE BASKETS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AT **NEW CITY KIDS**

For our **Lenten Outreach**, we are collecting 19 mini fridges and filling 20 laundry baskets with items that the graduating senior students at our outreach partner organization, New City Kids, can take with them as they prepare for college. See below for the list of items to purchase. Take a tab from the board in the Atrium or go on to the Amazon Wish List. Items can be shipped to the church (please mark them as purchased). A donation box will also be available in the Atrium.

New City Kids mission is to walk with a child from age six to nineteen and be an advocate, family, teacher, and mentor to that child. They strive to set these children on a path of life transformation that will carry them forward for the rest of their lives. They offer two key programs, including: After School Center and Teen Life Internship. These programs complement and support one another. Learn more at [newcitykids.org/grandrapids](http://newcitykids.org/grandrapids). New City Kids students will join us in leading worship at **Midweek Chapel on March 25**.

- case of mini Starry cans
- case of mini Coke cans
- Trident gum variety pack
- Takis variety pack (chips)
- Frito-Lay Cool & Tangy variety pack
- Nissin Hot & Spicy Chicken Bowls
- Nissin Cup O Noodles, chicken flavor
- Velveeta Shells & Cheese Bowls
- 6-pack casual crew socks
- 2 standard pillows
- deodorant
- bodywash
- body lotion
- 4 spiral notebooks
- 1 power strip
- 3 mini magnetic page bookmarks
- 1 Dial hand soap
- 2 washcloths
- 2 bath towels
- 1 manicure set
- 1 set of index cards
- 1 pencil pouch
- 1 throw blanket
- 1 Tide laundry detergent Pods
- 1 set of sticky notes
- 1 travel hand sanitizer
- 1 pack of highlighters- various colors
- 1 pair of sunglasses
- mini dorm room fridge



Scan for  
Amazon List



**New City Kids**  
loving kids for change

# Weekly Calendar

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

## Today, March 8

**9am** | New Members' Class

**10:30am** | Sunday Worship

**5pm** | Elevate

## THIS WEEK

**9** Women's Bible Study | 9:30am

Women's Bible Study | 5pm

Men's Bible Study | 5pm

Lent by Candlelight | 6:30pm

**10** Breakfast Club | 6:30am

Men's Bible Study | 8am

Needlepoint & Stitching | 10am

Worship & Music Com. Mtg. | 4pm

*Cub Scouts\** | 6pm

**11** Midweek | 4:30pm

Mayflower Bells | 6:30pm

*Al-Anon\** | 7pm

Chancel Choir | 7:30pm

**12** *Women's City Club\** | 9:30am

Women's Bible Study | 10am

*Boy Scouts\** | 6:30pm

**13** Men's Bible Study | 7am

**15** Morning Worship | 10:30am

Finding America Concert | 3pm

Elevate | 5pm

## "FINDING AMERICA" CONCERT



MONDAYS  
AT  
MAYFLOWER

**SUNDAY | MARCH 15 | 3PM**

Mondays at Mayflower special concert in  
collaboration with Grand Valley Piano Chamber Series:

"Finding America", Sunday, March 15

2:15pm pre-concert conversation, 3pm concert

Kimia Ghaderi, violin; David Lau, viola; Pablo Mahave-Veglia, cello;

and Sookkyung Cho, piano play music of

Paul Hindemith, Ernő Dohnányi, and Rebecca Clarke.



**FREE AND OPEN TO ALL. RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE CONCERT.**

# 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](mailto:office@mayflowerchurch.org).) Prayer Cards are also in the pews and collected during Sunday morning services.

## PRAISE FOR THOSE WHO CELEBRATE

We celebrate with **Greg and Kay Scott** on the birth of their grandson, Carson Paul Scott, born on Feb. 24.

## PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for **Gary Wallin**. He fell in Florida and is in the hospital. (3/3)

**Rusty Petchauer** is recovering from an illness and would like prayers for her strength and recovery. (2/24)

**Chuck Henry** has moved to a care facility and would appreciate prayers for this transition. (2/10)

## PRAY FOR FRIENDS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for Milt Stainbrook, a friend of a church member, who is experiencing kidney failure. (3/4)

## PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

We mourn with the family of **Virginia Joan Fleser**, who passed on Feb 12. The family will have a memorial service at River Rock Church Mar. 8 at 3pm. Visitation at 2pm. (2/17)

We mourn with the **Schutt family** in the passing of **Kateri's** father, Tim Klein of Frankfort, MI. (2/10)

Please pray for the family of **Barbara Gordon**, who passed away Feb. 1. A service was held for her on Feb. 7 at Mayflower. (2/3)

Our hearts go out to **Kate and John Schneider** and Kate's mom, **Cindy** as they mourn the passing of Kate's father, Roger Bera. (2/3)

## PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY & OUR WORLD

"Pray for peace in Jerusalem." -Psalm 122:6

As bombs fly and people huddle in shelters, and as the global death toll rises and leaders make decisions that reverberate across land and sea, we pray for wisdom. We pray for peace. We pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. violence and war.

We are pleased to announce a NEW MINISTRY led by our very own Murry Idema:

## MAY-FLOWERS!

A Ministry for the home bound, hospitalized,

and those in need of special encouragement.



# Wellspring in the Wilderness

Join us during the season of LENT as we carve out time to learn, give and worship together as we join Jesus's story of Great Love.

## LENT DEVOTIONS



**"PRAY AS YOU GO" APP** | We are inviting everyone to download this app and each day we can worship and pray as a community connected. Scan the QR or go to your App Store to download this free app.

**DAILY DEVOTION BOOKS** | Available for families and adults in the Atrium at church.

**WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL EMAIL** | Every Monday you will receive a devotional email written by a Mayflower Pastor or lead staff person. Our hope that these notes will be a blessing during the days of Lent.

## LENT OUTREACH PROJECT

We are collecting items and writing notes during the season of Lent to fill 20 baskets that will be given to high school graduates who participate in the **New City Kids** program. Many of these students will be first time college students who we have the honor of blessing in this way. See the bulletin insert during Lent for a list of items to purchase.

## SPECIAL CHILDREN & YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**MARCH 8** | During Sunday school is the annual PEEP'S Prize! This Mayflower tradition allows for children and youth to transform Easter candy into a diorama of their favorite Bible story. Red licorice becomes the Red Sea, animal crackers board the Ark, and more! Creations will be on display throughout the Atrium for all to enjoy!



**MARCH 29** | Following the Palm Sunday service, live animals and an Easter egg hunt will occur on the front lawn. Everyone is invited to join in the festivities!

## JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK

MARCH 29 | PALM SUNDAY | 10:30AM WORSHIP

### APRIL 2 | MAUNDY THURSDAY | 6PM

ALL are invited as we engage in the narrative of Jesus' last supper with His disciples before His journey to the cross. Bring your family, kids are welcome! We'll share a meal, hear scripture, and share communion.



### APRIL 3 | GOOD FRIDAY | 6PM

*Journey to the Cross* – a worship service of music and readings. You won't want to miss this service with the Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys, Mayflower's Chancel Choir, and instrumentalists from the Grand Rapids Symphony.

### APRIL 5 | EASTER | 10:30AM WORSHIP

Join us in worship as we acknowledge that love wins even in the wilderness as we worship and hear a message filled with the joy of the resurrection. Come sing the Hallelujah Chorus and bring flowers to adorn our wooden cross.



# LENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Join us on Mondays  
this Lenten Season

6:30pm | Community Meal  
7pm | Music, Reflection,  
and Prayer

Find a *Wellspring in the  
Wilderness* during Lent  
at Mayflower Church.

ALL ARE WELCOME

**MAYFLOWER**  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
616-459-6255 | MayflowerChurch.org

2345 Robinson Road SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506



FEB. 23 | Julia Brown, *harpsichord*  
DANCE AND LAMENT:  
MUSIC OF FROBERGER AND LOUIS COUPERIN



MAR. 2 | Alison Reese, *harp*  
RESONATING IN THE STILLNESS:  
HARP MUSIC FOR LENTEN REFLECTION



MAR. 9 | Duo Tarasque  
(Howell Petty, *voice*; Luce Burrell, *lute*)  
LA FONTAYNE: LATE MEDIEVAL FRENCH  
AND ITALIAN MUSIC



MAR. 16 | Karen Krummel, *cello*; Robert Edwards, *piano*  
SOULFUL CONTEMPLATION



SCAN HERE TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT BECOMING A FRIEND  
OF MONDAYS AT MAYFLOWER

# ADORN THE SANCTUARY WITH EASTER FLOWERS

**\$10/plant | Orders Due March 15**

Choose from *Tulips, Hyacinth, Daffodils, and Single Stem Lilies*. Scan the QR code to order online, or contact Amy in the church office.



Flowers are available to pick up after the service on Easter morning.

## Welcome REV. KENT DOBSON, Associate Pastor



Mayflower is pleased to announce Rev. Kent Dobson as the Associate Pastor. Last week at the congregational meeting, members voted unanimously to call Pastor Kent to this role. We welcome Kent and his wife, Amanda, along with their children to the Mayflower family! Reach out to Kent to say "welcome" and "hello": [kent@mayflowerchurch.org](mailto:kent@mayflowerchurch.org).

# 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](mailto: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**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month | 5pm

**Next meeting: March 19 at Vivant Brewery**

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+)**

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.

**High School Breakfast Club** – Tuesdays | 6:30am

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

## **Ladies' Luncheon**

**Next meeting: March 17 at 11:30**

**Kitchen 67 Bistro (1977 E. Beltline NE)**

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

RSVP Maris Rosema 616-821-0413 or Shirley VanderWilt 616-648-8848

## **LGBTQ Support Circle**

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month | 6pm | Library

**Next meeting: March 26**

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

**Needlepoint & Stitching** – Tuesdays | 10am | Atrium

## **Priscilla Circle**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month | 11am

**Next meeting: April 1**

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.

## 2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

We saw great momentum with membership engagement and new member class participation. Pledge revenue and year end giving was up approximately \$70k from last year. Personnel and H&G expenses continue to rise which demonstrates our need for sustained long term growth. In 2025, we had a deficit budget of (\$53k) which we beat handily ending the year at +\$54k. In 2025, we had 187 giving units, while 195 are planned so far for 2026.



# Mayflower ART CAMP!

**JUNE 8-11 | 9am-12pm**  
**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**  
**\$100/Child**  
**Rising Kindergarteners-5<sup>th</sup> grade**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER TODAY



## MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2345 Robinson Rd SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506 | 616-459-6255 | [MayflowerChurch.org](http://MayflowerChurch.org)

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

Dr. Julia Brown, Director of Music & Organist

Rachael Cooley, Executive Director of Youth, Outreach, & Operations

Amy Dunham, Office Manager | Andy Ely, Business Manager | Murry Idema, May-Flowers Ministry

Kristen Van Stee, Communications Coordinator | 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

19

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Samuel 7:12

Robert Robinson, 1735-1790

Traditional American Melody

John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813

1. Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to  
 2. Here I raise mine Eb - en - e - zer; Hith - er by Thy  
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -

sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for  
 help I'm come; And I hope, by Thy good pleas - ure, Safe - ly  
 strained to be! Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fet - ter, Bind my

songs of loud - est praise: Teach me some me - lo - dious  
 to ar - rive at home: Je - sus sought me when a  
 wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I

son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; Praise the  
 stran - ger, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to  
 feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my

mount! I'm fixed up - on it, Mount of Thy re - deem - ing love.  
 res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.  
 heart, Lord, take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.

NETTLETON  
8.7.8.7 D

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

432

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

William Williams, 1717-1791

John Hughes, 1873-1932

Trans. by Peter Williams, 1722-1796, and others

1. Guide me, O Thou great Je - ho - vah, Pil - grim through this  
2. O - pen now the crys - tal foun-tain, Whence the heal - ing  
3. When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious

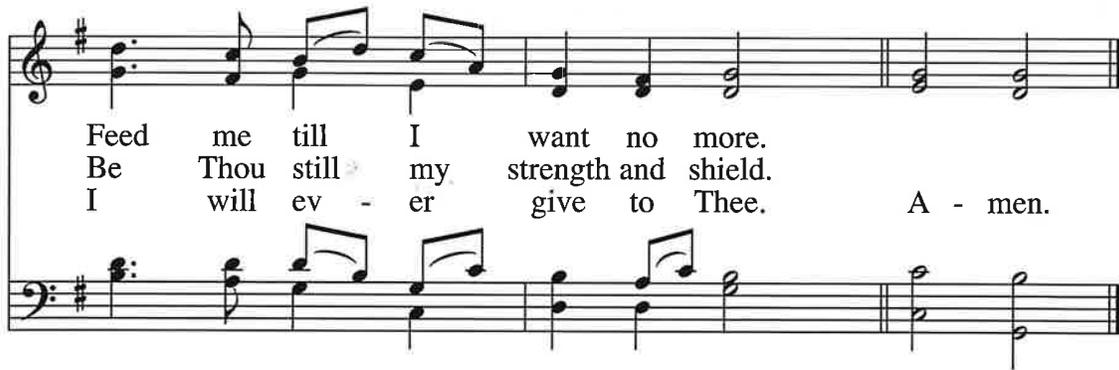
bar - ren land; I am weak, but Thou art might - y;  
stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar  
fears sub - side; Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

Hold me with Thy pow'r-ful hand; Bread of heav - en,  
Lead me all my jour - ney through; Strong De - liv - 'rer,  
Land me safe on Ca-naan's side; Songs of prais - es,

bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no more,  
strong De - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield,  
songs of prais - es, I will ev - er give to Thee,

CWM RHONDDA  
8.7.8.7.8.7.7

## GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE



Feed me till I want no more.  
Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
I will ev - er give to Thee. A - men.

O God of love, of life and light, and of truth, hear our prayer for Your guidance and direction in our daily lives. We hunger for a personal, reciprocal relationship with You so that we may fulfill Your will for us and become everything that You meant each of us to be. Fill us with Your Spirit—for without it we are empty—and renew a right attitude within us.

Our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, and we ask for Your infinite mercy and amazing grace. Too often we have denied You in our human weakness. Forgive us and give us strength in our personal lives to overcome that which we must.

O God, we thank You for loving us even when we are the most unlovable. Help us in our striving love more like You: unconditionally. When confronted with a choice, may we constantly ask ourselves the question, “What would Jesus do?” Help us to be more conscious of the needs of others.

Guide us in our efforts, that we may achieve Your way of more abundant, fulfilled living. May Your will be done, and may we accept it. May we humbly ask, “What are Your plans for today, Lord? May we be a part of them?”

Amen.

Rev. Sandy Freud