

# MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

July 12, 2026

## MAYFLOWER SUMMER SERIES: Journey Through Genesis

This summer we will sing, study, reflect, and pray through the first book of the Bible. We'll begin each week with a liturgical call to worship based on the Creation Story, and the sermon will explore the major stories as they unfold in Genesis.

### PRELUDE

*Praeludium in F Major BuxWV 156*  
by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Dr. Julia Brown

### WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson & Rev. Kent Dobson

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

### NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Rachael Cooley

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Kris Wilson

Leader: In the beginning...

People: **God created the heavens and the earth, and every creature that walks upon it.**

Leader: And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures."

People: **Creatures of every kind came forth.**

Leader: Wild things and cattle and creeping things appeared.

People: **The earth is full of God's creatures.**

### OPENING HYMN 32 (stand as you are able)

*God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale*

ROEDER

### OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dobson

**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**

Genesis 25:19-24

Rev. Dobson

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 18

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*Underdogs*

Rev. Bell Olsson

**HYMN 43** (stand as you are able)

*How Like a Gentle Spirit*

SURSUM CORDA

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Rev. Dobson

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*O Divine Redeemer*  
by Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Kittie Schumaker, soprano

Ah, turn me not away, receive me though unworthy. Hear Thou my cry, behold, Lord, my distress!

Answer me from Thy throne, haste Thee, Lord, to mine aid! Thy pity show in my deep anguish.

Let not the sword of vengeance smite me, Though righteous Thine anger, O Lord!

Shield me in danger, O regard me! On Thee, Lord, alone will I call!

O divine Redeemer! I pray thee grant me pardon, And remember not my sins! Forgive me!

Night gathers round my soul. Fearful, I cry to Thee,

Come to mine aid, O Lord! Haste Thee, Lord, haste to help me! Hear my cry, save me, Lord in Thy mercy;

Save in the day of retribution from death shield Thou me, O my God!

O divine Redeemer, have mercy! Help me Savior!

**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** (remain standing)

**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 294** (stand as you are able)

*God Binds Us with a Mighty Cord*

KINGSFOLD

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Bell Olsson

**POSTLUDE**

*Praeludium in D minor*  
by Heinrich Scheidemann (1595-1663)

Dr. Brown

**Please join us for coffee in the Atrium after the service.**

If you would like to provide treats for the Sunday reception,  
please email [Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org](mailto:Rachael@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](mailto:office@mayflowerchurch.org).) Prayer Cards are also in the pews and collected during Sunday morning services.*

### PRAISE FOR THOSE WHO CELEBRATE

We celebrate the baptism of **Grace Pennington** on June 21.

Congratulations to **Tim Moreland** on his retirement from Aquinas College after 35 years of service.

We are overjoyed for **Max Frantz** and Allison Bowers for their recent engagement.

### PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Maris Rosema** asks for prayers for healing from a lung infection. (7/08)

Pray for **Terry Zylman**. Terry is recovering from surgery, and would appreciate prayers at this time. (6/30)

### PRAY FOR FRIENDS OF MAYFLOWER

Pray for **Boy Scout Troop 270** as they set out for the camping trip to Gettysburg today through July 18. (7/12)

**Diane**, friend of **Art and Marilyn Emery**, was recently diagnosed with cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy. We lift her up in prayer. (6/30)

We pray for **Sue Defoe's** friend **Wendy** who is undergoing treatments for brain cancer. (6/30)

### PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Former East Grand Rapids resident and childhood Mayflower member, **Brian Caukin**, passed away at his home in Orlando, Florida on June 17. His memorial service will be held at Mayflower on July 31 at 1pm. (6/30)

Please pray for the VerMeulen family. **Carol VerMeulen** passed away on June 13. A visitation will be at Mayflower on July 17 at 10am with a memorial following at 11am. (6/16)

### PRAY FOR THE WORLD

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth...God proclaimed them *good*.

As we pray for our world, let us pray with the heart of God. God loves the world God created and all of us who live in it. All of us. God desires peace, harmony and unity for God's people. May we be participants in bringing heaven to earth today and always. Amen.

## 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.

## Calendar

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

### Today, July 12

10:30am | Sunday worship

### JULY

15 *Al-Anon\** | 7pm

19 Morning Worship | 10:30am

21 Chandelier Cleaning | 9am

Ladies' Luncheon (Beer City Bread) | 11:30am

*Red Cross Blood Drive\** | 1pm

*Mobile Food Pantry (Downtown)\** | 5pm

22 *Al-Anon\** | 7pm

## 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, Associate 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 | Rachel Blair, Congregational Care Coordinator

Kristen Van Stee, Communications Coordinator | Kathy Tetzlaff, Facilities

Dr. Mark Webb, Chancel Choir Director | Melia Colwell, Director of Children's Music and Worship

**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

32 God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-

Carl F. Schalk, 1929-

*Unison*

1. God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the  
 2. God of the earth-quake God of the storm God of the  
 3. God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the  
 4. God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the  
 5. God of the neigh - bor God of the foe God of the  
 6. God of the a - ges God near at hand God of the

swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say Awe  
 trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry Woe  
 emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say Grace  
 prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say Care  
 prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say Love  
 lov - ing heart How do Your chil - dren say Joy

1.-5. How does the crea - ture say Praise  
 How does the crea - ture cry Save  
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks  
 How does the crea - ture say Life  
 How does the crea - ture say Peace  
 How do Your chil - dren say Home

6.

ROEDER  
5.4.6.7.7

## How Like a Gentle Spirit

43

C. Eric Lincoln, 1924–2000

Alfred Morton Smith, 1879–1971

*Unison*

1. How like a gen - tle spir - it deep with - in God  
 2. Let God be God wher - ev - er life may be; Let  
 3. God like a moth - er ea - gle hov - ers near On  
 4. When in our vain pre - ten - sions we con - spire To  
 5. In all our fret - ful claims of sex and race The

reins our fer - vent pas - sions day by day, And  
 ev - 'ry tongue bear wit - ness to the call; All  
 might - y wings of pow - er man - i - fest; God  
 shape God's im - age as we see our own, Hark  
 u - ni - ver - sal love of God shines through, For

gives us strength to chal - lenge and to win De -  
 hu - man - kind is one by God's de - cree; Let  
 like a gen - tle shep - herd stills our fear, And  
 to the voice a - bove our base de - sire; God  
 God is love tran - scend - ing style and place And

spite the per - ils of our cho - sen way.  
 God be God, let God be God for all.  
 com - forts us a - gainst a peace - ful breast.  
 is the sculp - tor, we the bro - ken stone.  
 all the i - dle op - tions we pur - sue.

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 Tune © 1941, Episcopal Church of the Ascension

SURSUM CORDA  
 10.10.10.10

*Love and Mercy***THE FATHER**

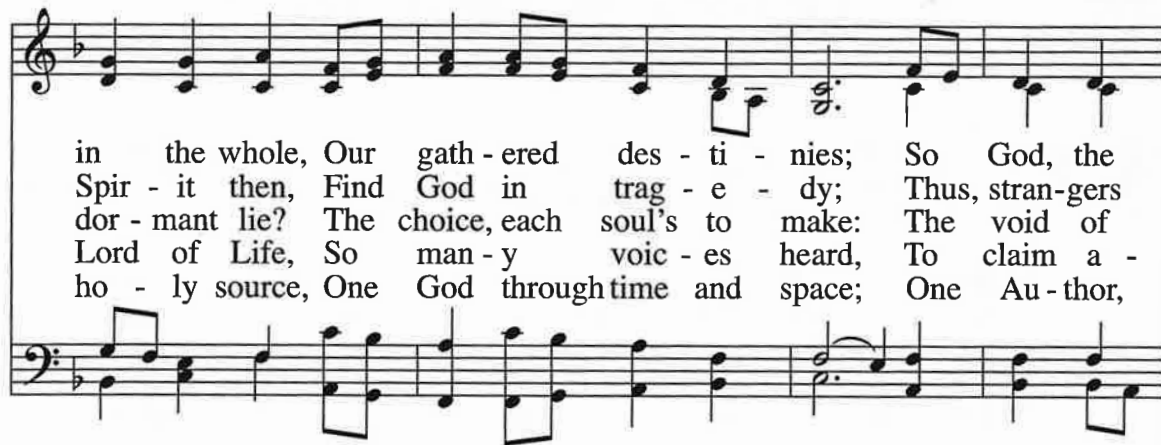
1. God binds us with a might - y cord, We sel - dom  
 2. In try - ing times, God's stead - fast light Shines on a  
 3. The face of e - vil we per - ceive In des - p'rate  
 4. As fol - low - ers of count - less ways, Yet chil - dren  
 5. For God main - tains no bor - der lines, To lim - it

feel or see; This tie, with our cre - at - ing Lord, Links  
 world in need, And leads all peo - ple to u - nite, With  
 deeds and crimes, Lies deep in all hu - man - i - ty: Our  
 of one Lord, Di - verse com - mand - ments we o - bey, Re -  
 each one's place, But cher - ish - es a grand de - sign, Tran -

all e - ter - nal - ly. Each life, a thread joined  
 heal - ing words and deeds. We yearn to feel the  
 bur - den through - out time. Will dark seeds bloom or  
 spond - ing to God's word. Still praise we all the  
 scend - ing na - tion, race. All life comes from this

KINGSFOLD  
 CMD

## GOD'S REVELATION



in the whole, Our gath - ered des - ti - nies; So God, the  
Spir - it then, Find God in trag - e - dy; Thus, stran-gers  
dor - mant lie? The choice, each soul's to make: The void of  
Lord of Life, So man - y voic - es heard, To claim a -  
ho - ly source, One God through time and space; One Au - thor,



Weav - er, knits our souls In one great tap - es - try.  
trans - form in - to friends, In ho - ly u - ni - ty.  
night, or mer - cy's light, Where pa - tient - ly God waits.  
gain this frag - ile tie That u - ni - fies our world.  
who a - lone brings forth Lives drawn in lines of grace.

By Your Holy Spirit, O God, You bind us together as one body, and empower us to carry on the ministry that You enfleshed as Christ. In our differences, and in our moments when we wander away from one another, unite us anew. Give us fresh eyes to see the ways in which You have connected us, rather than the ways we have separated ourselves. We pray also for opportunities to strengthen the bonds between us. Send us out, but send us together, to exercise our ministry, following the directives You give us; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Shawn P. Stapleton