

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

August 16, 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

Introduction and 4 Variations on Holy, Holy, Holy
by Piet Post

Carol McNally, guest organist

WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson and Rev. Kent Dobson

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: **And also with you.**

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

Rachael Cooley

INTROIT

This Is The Day
by Mark Webb

Octet

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

CALL TO WORSHIP

David Blair

Leader: In the beginning...

People: **God created the heavens and the earth, and called creation into relationship.**

Leader: God said, "It is not good that the human should be alone."

People: **We are created for relationship.**

Leader: Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh.

People: **We belong to one another in love and mercy.**

OPENING HYMN 267 (stand as you are able)

Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN

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 45: 1-15
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 35

Rev. Dobson

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

The Big Reveal

Rev. Bell Olsson

HYMN 53 (stand as you are able)

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

DUNDEE

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Dobson

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

His Eye Is on the Sparrow
arr. by Mark Webb

Octet

Text can be found in hymn #386

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 36 (stand as you are able)

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

BENEDICTION

Rev. Bell Olsson

POSTLUDE

Finale on Holy, Holy, Holy
by Piet Post

Carol McNally

Vocal Ensemble: Kristi Burghart, Kittie Schumaker, Erin Gilbert, Jennifer McGraw,
Melissa Blanchard, Chris Koorndyk, Brennen Kartes, Jennifer Galloway

Today's flowers are placed in loving memory of Thalia (Tolly) and Richard Stiffler.

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

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 the engagement of **Brittany McNeil** and **Steve Hecker**. Brittany's daughter, Nina, is eager to be part of the upcoming festivities and ceremony.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We pray for **David Cornelius** as he recovers from bypass surgery on Aug. 11. (8/11)

Pray for **Joan Ross** who broke her right arm. (8/04)

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

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Prayers for the **Battershall family** after the loss of Shirley. Please also pray for the **Riddle family** after the loss of Brock. Our hearts are with those who grieve and we remember and celebrate those we've lost. (8/04)

Prayers for the family of **Bob Nelson**. Bob passed on July 30. A visitation will be at Mayflower at 10am on August 21 and funeral at 11 am with a reception to follow. (8/04)

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, August 16

10:30am | Sunday Worship

AUGUST

18 Ladies' Luncheon | 11:30am | BJ's Brewhouse (RSVP Maris Rosema 616-821-0413)
Mobile Food Pantry (downtown) | 5pm

19 *Al-Anon** | 7pm

20 *Women's City Club** | 11am

23 Sunday Worship | 10:30am

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

Unison

1. Morn - ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing,
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en,
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

Black - bird has spo - ken Like the first
 Like the first dew - fall On the first
 Born of the one light E - den saw

bird.
 grass.
 play!

Praise for the sing - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness
 Praise with e - la - tion,

Praise for the morn - ing!
 Of the wet gar - den,
 Praise ev - 'ry morn - ing, Praise for them,
 Sprung in com -
 God's re - cre -

spring
 plete - ing
 a - ness
 tion

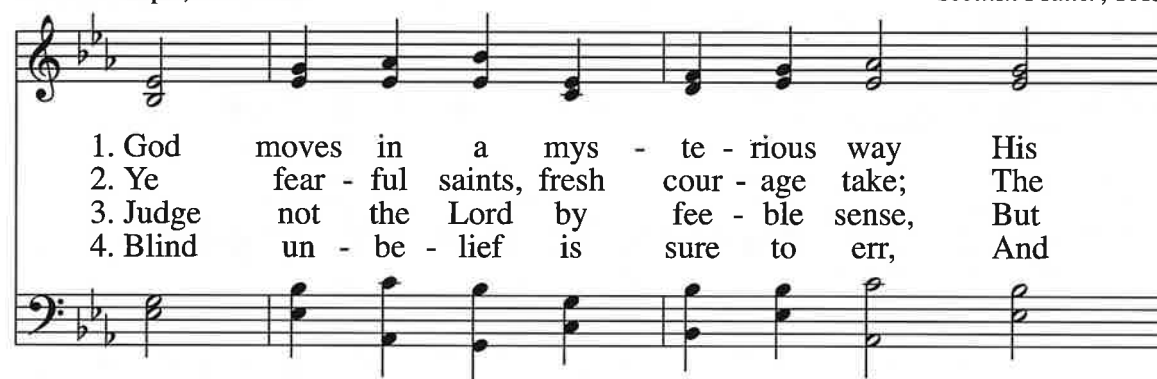
Fresh from the Word!
 Where His feet pass.
 Of the new day!

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

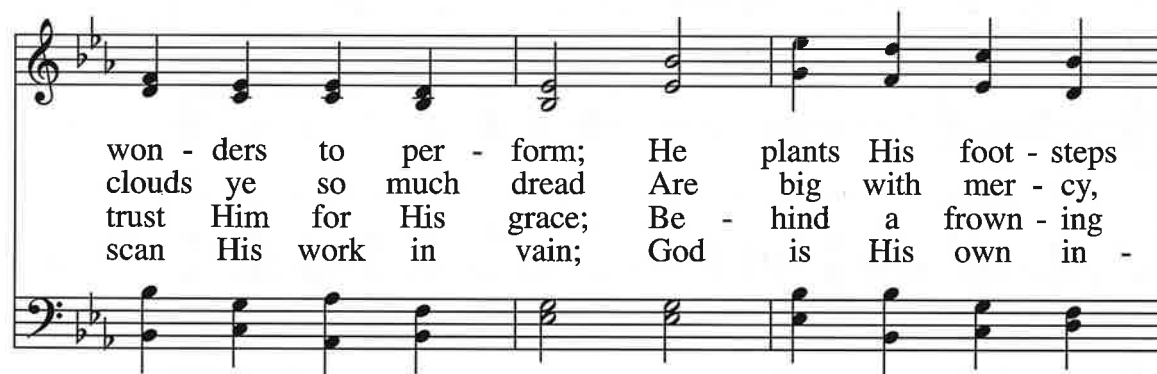
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William Cowper, 1731–1800

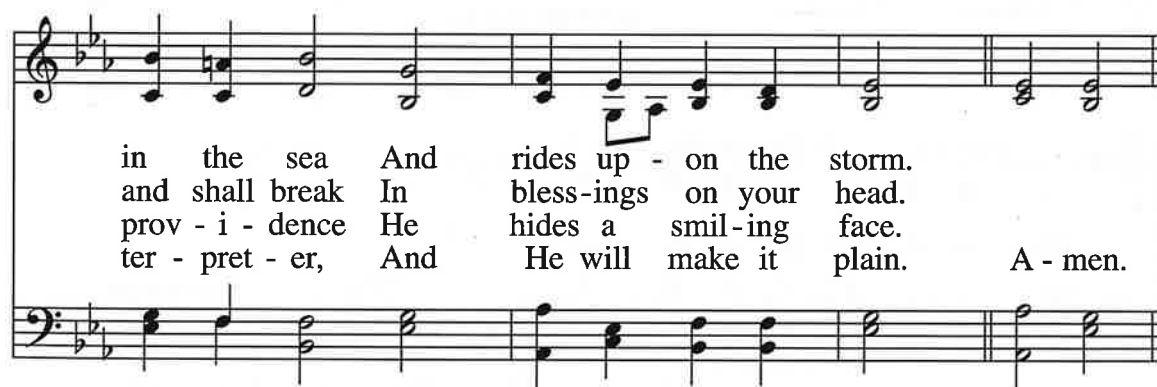
Scottish Psalter, 1615



1. God moves in a mys - te - rious way His
 2. Ye fear - ful saints, fresh cour - age take; The
 3. Judge not the Lord by fee - ble sense, But
 4. Blind un - be - lief is sure to err, And



won - ders to per - form; He plants His foot - steps
 clouds ye so much dread Are big with mer - cy,
 trust Him for His grace; Be - hind a frown - ing
 scan His work in vain; God is His own in -



in the sea And rides up - on the storm.
 and shall break In bless - ings on your head.
 prov - i - dence He hides a smil - ing face.
 ter - pret - er, And He will make it plain. A - men.

"He," "Him," or "His" may be replaced by "God(s)" or "You(r)."

DUNDEE
CM

Providence

THE FATHER

THE TRIUNE GOD

36

From All that Dwell below the Skies

Psalm 117

Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Geistliche Kerchengesäng, Cologne, 1623

Harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

Unison

1. From all that dwell be - low the skies, Let
 2. E - ter - nal are Your mer - cies, Lord; E -
 3. In ev - 'ry land be - gin the song; To

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise;
 ter - nal truth at - tends Your word: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 ev - 'ry land the strains be - long;

Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung, Through
 lu - ia! Your praise shall sound from shore to shore, Till
 In cheer - ful sounds all voic - es raise, And

ev - 'ry land by ev - 'ry tongue.
 suns shall rise and set no more. Al - le -
 fill the world with loud - est praise.

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 8.8.4.4.8.8 with Alleluias

THE TRIUNE GOD

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first system covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Lord of heaven and earth, all creation is about its task. The robin sings its lilting song while gathering twigs to build its nest. The beaver builds its mighty dam with trees it cuts along the bank. There is a symphony of sound which nature plays upon our ears. The thunder claps and insects add their eerie sounds. Raindrops fall upon the roof in cadence with the march of spring. All nature joins in harmony to raise its glorious voice to God.

Born of God, we walk the earth. We till the soil and tend the harvest. Blessed are we with fish and fowl, field and forest, rolling sea and craggy mountain. We bow before creation's splendor.

The heavens above are dark and vast but starlight penetrates the night. The sky is marked by nature's light: the sun by day and the moon by night. The heavens declare God's mighty ways.

This God of ours is not contained in some small sphere of our design. The planets in their courses move and we are left to wonder how our God has made it so. We stand in awe that one bright star revealed God's incarnate truth. Amen.

Berwick Congregational Church, Member Preparation Class