

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

September 27, 2026

BETTER LIFE BETTER WORLD

O my people, listen to me! Hear my instruction; soak up every word of what I am about to tell you. I will open my mouth in parables; I will speak of ancient mysteries— Things that we have heard about, things that we have known, things which our ancestors declared to us again and again. We will not keep these things secret from their children; rather, we will tell the coming generation All about the praise that is due to the Eternal One. We will tell them all about His strength, power, and wonders. -Psalm 78:1-4

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

As the Deer
Nystrom, arr. Fred Bock

Dr. Julia Brown, piano

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

Ingrid Nelson

Leader: We live in a world that measures power by strength, control, and influence.

People: But we come to learn another way.

Leader: God meets the thirsty in the wilderness and calls the powerful to humility.

People: May we seek not power over others, but the power to love and serve.

All: Let us worship the God whose power gives life.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 19 (stand as you are able)

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Bell Olsson

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.**

ANTHEM

River in Judea

Chancel Choir

music by Jack Feldman, arranged by John Leavitt

Oftentimes I dream of music, of the river that freely flows.
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, one everybody knows.
Late at night I hear it singing, then again when I wake at dawn.
And it fills me up with hope and goodwill, the will to go on.

Refrain: There is a river in Judea that I hear of long ago.
And it's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out to know.

I believe it keeps on travelin', but it rests on the Sabbath day.
And the time when it pauses in stillness, I almost hear it pray. When I'm weary and downhearted,
how I long for the song it sings, for the calm within its gentle blue, the peace that it brings. (Refrain)

May the time not be too distant when we meet by the river shore.
'Til then dream of that wonderful day as we sing once more: (Refrain)

Hallelujah!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rachael Cooley

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1–7

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 52

Matthew 21:23–32

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 698

Rev. Bell Olsson

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Better Life, Better World: Power

Rev. Dobson

HYMN 351 vs. 1 & 2 (stand as you are able) *As the Deer*

AS THE DEER

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Rev. Bell Olsson

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.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My God is a Rock
Spiritual; arr. Parker/Shaw

Chancel Choir
Daniel Weinrick, baritone

Refrain: My God is a rock in a weary land, shelter in a time of storm. I know He is a rock in a weary land, shelter in a time of storm. Stop 'n' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter One, when de Lord God's work was jes' begun. Stop 'n' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Two, when de Lord God's written His Bible through.

Stop 'n let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Three, when de Lord God died on Calvary. (Refrain)

Stop 'n' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Four, when de Lord God visit 'mong de po'. Stop 'n' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Five,, when de Lord God brought de dead alive.

Stop 'n' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Six, He went in Jerusalem an' healed de sick. (Refrain)

Stop 'n' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Sev'n, Died and ris'n an' went to Heav'n. Stop 'n' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Eight, John seen Him standin' at de Golden Gate.

Stop 'n' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Nine, Lord God turned de water to wine. Stop 'n' let me tell you 'bout de Chapter Ten, John says He's comin' in de world again. (Refrain)

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.**

OFFERTORY BLESSING

Rev. Bell Olsson

HYMN 456 VS. 1, 2, 3 (stand as you are able)

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dobson

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in F Major
by Vincent Lübeck (1656-1740)

Dr. Brown

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

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

CAR HOP FUNDRAISER

TONIGHT! | 5-6:30PM

The youth groups are hosting a "Car Hop" to raise funds for the fall Middle/High School Mission Trip. Park in the middle lot and be transported back to the 50's. Menu includes hot dogs, hamburgers, & root beer.

be there or be square!

FAITH 101 | TUESDAYS | 8-9am

JOIN PASTOR KENT FOR A WEEKLY STUDY ON THE BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH



What we'll cover:

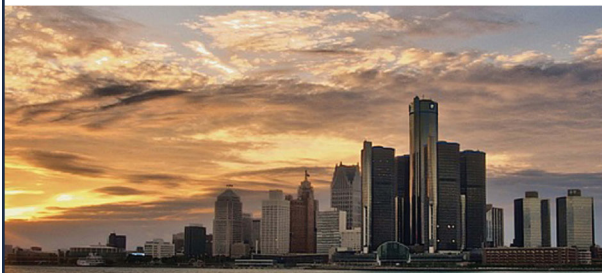
- The Bible and how to use it
- The foundations of Christian practice
- Theology for regular people
- Living faith in the modern world

We'll meet in the **YOUTH ROOM**. All are welcome. Attend when you're able, nothing to prepare. We hope this will serve those new to the faith, returning to faith, or those who feel they need a bit of a refresher.

Next Class September 29

MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE TRIP | OCT. 23-25 | DETROIT



Rachael Cooley and Pastor Kent will lead a group of students to Detroit for a weekend of learning, growth, and service.

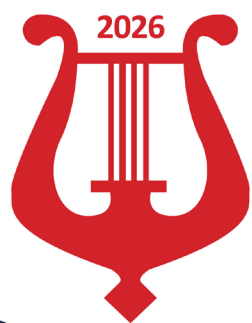
We are partnering with Messiah Church, where we will stay and be a part of their community. We will tour Detroit and learn the impact of a collapsed industry and population shift on the neighbors in the city, participate in service work in the neighborhoods, attend the Sunday service, and eat in the neighborhood restaurants.



SCAN QR to Sign Up

Support for this trip will be raised
at the CAR HOP, September 27 at 5pm

MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



MONDAYS
AT
MAYFLOWER

mayflowerchurch.org/concerts

OCTOBER 5 | 7PM LUCES, ASTROS, ESTRELLAS

Musica Ficta, one of the most distinguished early music ensembles, performs music found in Latin American archives



OCTOBER 12 | 6:15 PRE-CONCERT TALK; 7PM CONCERT VIENNESE DREAMS

Schubert's Die Schöne Müllerin with tenor Nicholas Phan

OCTOBER 19 | 7PM | THE BEAUTY OF THE LAUTENWERK

Wolfgang Rübsam playing an all-Bach program

OCTOBER 26 | 7PM | GRAND RAPIDS SYMPHONY BRASS QUINTET

A tribute to longtime Mayflower member Barbara Gordon

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

MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Calendar

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

Today, September 27

10:30am | Sunday Worship
5pm | Car Hop Fundraiser

SEPTMEBER

- 28** Women's Bible Study | 9:30am
Women's Bible Study | 5pm
- 29** Breakfast Club | 6:30am
Faith 101 | 8am
Needlepoint & Stitching | 10am
Mobile Food Pantry (Mayflower) | 5pm
- 30** Midweek | 3pm
Mayflower Bells | 6pm
House and Grounds Meeting | 6:30pm
*Al-Anon** | 7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:15pm

OCTOBER

- 1** Women's Bible Study | 10am
Bible Study | 5pm
Doubts on Draft | 5pm
- 2** Men's Bible Study | 7am
Grown Ups Gather | 4pm
- 4** Communion Sunday | 10:30am
Night Church | 5pm
- 5** Women's Bible Study | 9:30am
Women's Bible Study | 5pm
Mondays at Mayflower | 7pm

UPCOMING OCTOBER DATES TO NOTE

October 4 | Night Church | 5pm

Sing Learn. Eat. Our monthly evening worship will gather in the sanctuary for learning and music followed by a light meal in fellowship hall.

October 8 | 69UP Event | 5pm

Join us at Cascade Trails on Thursday, Oct.8. RSVP to Murry at 616-901-3842 or ridema58@gmail.com. Please indicate if you plan to bring an appetizer or a bottle of white wine to share.

October 11 | Priscilla Circle Bake Sale | 11:30am

Its Christmas in October! Proceeds will go towards new Christmas decorations for the sanctuary windows. Everyone is asked to bring baked goods on the morning of the 11th.

October 11 & 18 | New Members Class | 9am

Are you ready? The next Mayflower membership class will be held Sundays Oct. 11 & 18, 9-10am in the youth room. We would love to have you join us! Contact the church office for more information: office@mayflowerhchurch.org or (616) 456-6255.

October 14 | EGRHS Lunch & Give

Join us for a presentation with AYA Youth Collective and a Q'doba lunch. AYA supports people aged 14-24 who face housing insecurity, instability, or homelessness. Trolley pick up at Gerkin Plaza at the EGR high school – **Parental consent needed**. Contact Rachael Cooley for more information.

GROWN UPS GATHER & GRAZE EVENT



October 2 @ 4pm | Autumn Hoedown

Dale and Ellen DeHaan's home

Join us at 4pm for a hayride and entertainment by the EASY IDLE STRING BAND. Bring an appetizer to share and beverage of your choice and dress for the outdoors. RSVP to Patty (psienstra@gmail.com or text 616-717-3427). Invite other adults that would like the fun and fellowship, all ages welcome.

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

Asher Theodore Edgar was born on Aug. 24. Son to Rob and Anne Edgar and the grandson of **Chris and Linda Edgar**. (9/15)

We give praise with **Melia Colwell**, Director of Children's Music and Worship, and her family on the birth of son, **Franklin Louis** on Sept. 11. (9/15)

We give praise with **Katherine and Patrick Miller** on the birth of their daughter, **Colette Frances** on Sept. 1. (9/2)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for **Ellen and Dale DeHaan's** daughter, **Michelle**, who is deployed on a medical mission in Venezuela. (9/2)

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

We mourn with **Doug and Chris Congdon** on the passing of Chris's father, **Chet Simons**, who passed away on Sept. 22. (9/23)

Our hearts are with the DeBoer family as they grieve the Sept. 22 passing of Beatrice "Bea" Viss-er, grandmother to **Josiah and Nicole DeBoer**, and mother of **Cindy DeBoer** who leads our Monday morning women's Bible study. (9/23)

We mourn with **Scott and Jane Bosscher** on the unexpected passing of Scott's brother, Michael, on Sept 16. (9/17)

Pray for **Jess Ruppert** and her family as they mourn the passing of Jess's mom, Penny Lumsden. (9/8)

Please pray for **Jeff, Ruth, Zinnia, Oskar, and Kagiso Olsson** as they grieve the passing of Jeff's mother Midge Olsson on Sept. 2. (9/2)

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

We pray for a better world...

Dear God, this week we pray for your **power**.

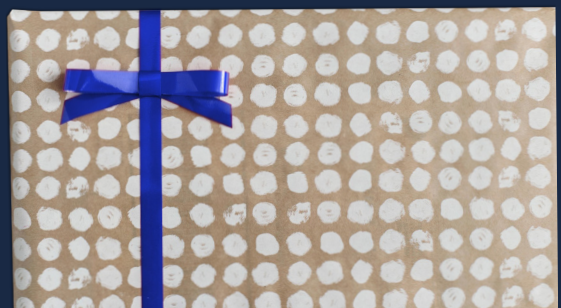
Help us to remember that You hold all power and authority. You conquered death! When it feels like the darkness is winning, remind us that your light shines and the darkness cannot overcome it. May we be light bearers and hope restorers. May we, as your people, claim the authority that comes from You to spread joy and make peace.

We pray this week for Feeding America and their mission to end hunger. No one should be food insecure in our country, and one of Jesus's mandates was to feed the hungry, so we join Feeding America with our resources and our prayers to see the hungry fed in our community. We pray for our mobile food pantry and those who access it. May they feel the love of Christ through our words and our actions this month and every month as we serve and love.

Amen.

Parents of College Students

Please let the office know your **student's address** as we are preparing care packages from friends at Mayflower. You can call or email the office at 616-459-6255 or office@mayflowerchurch.org



CONGRATULATIONS, SUSAN LOVELL!

It brings us joy to share that **Susan Lovell** will be honored with the Community Service Award at the The EGR Schools Foundation Awards Dinner on Oct. 7. Lovell co-founded the *Cadence*, an East Grand Rapids newspaper.



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.

MAYFLOWER MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF 8/31/26

	Month	YTD	FY Budget
Income	\$68,279	\$981,782	\$1,387,916
Expense	(\$88,213)	\$818,817	\$1,387,656
Net Income	(\$19,933)	\$163,965	\$260

Pledges received YTD: 69%



DID YOU KNOW?

Each month Mayflower spends over \$3,200 on the electric bill?

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 | Sean Ivory, Music Associate

Melia Colwell, Director of Children's Music & Worship | Liberty Kasper, Young Children's Choir Director

Zephyr White, 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

THE FATHER

Praise to God

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

351

As the Deer

Martin J. Nystrom, 1956-

Martin J. Nystrom, 1956-

Unison

D A/C# Bm D/A D/F#

1. As the deer pants for the wa - ter, So my
 2. I want You more than gold or sil - ver, On - ly
 3. You're my friend and You are my broth - er, E - ven

G A7SUS4 A7 D G/A A7 D A/C#

soul longs af - ter You; You a - lone are my
 You can sat - is - fy; You a - lone are the
 though You are a king; I love You more than

Bm D/A D/F# G A7SUS4 A7 D

heart's de - sire And I long to wor - ship You.
 real joy-giv-er And the ap - ple of my eye.
 an - y oth-er, So much more than an - y - thing!

Bm Bm/A G D/F# G Bm/F#

You a - lone are my strength and shield; to You a - lone may my

AS THE DEER
 Irregular

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

Em F#^{SUS4} F# D A/C#

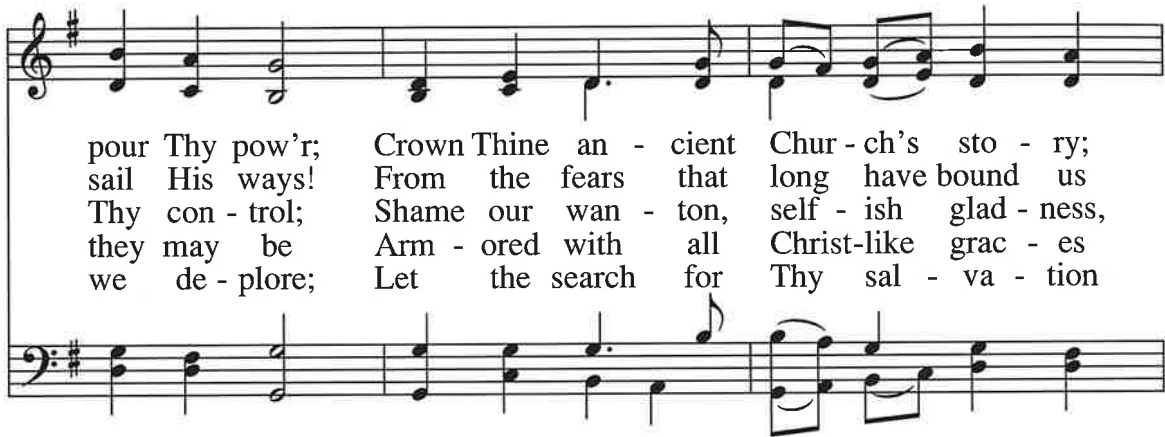
spir - it yield. You a - lone are my

Bm D/A D/F# G A^{7SUS4} A⁷ D

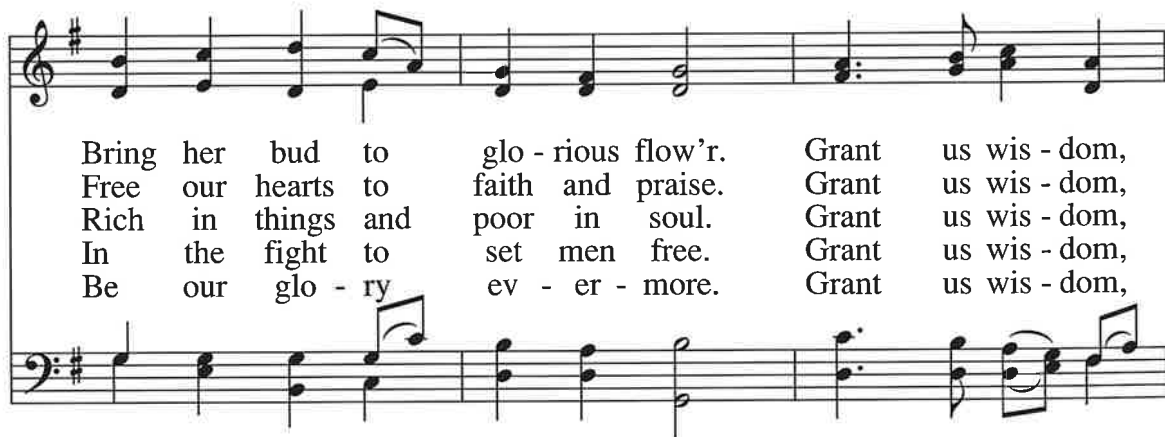
heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship You.



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
 4. Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; Gird our lives that
 5. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils



pour Thy pow'r; Crown Thine an - cient Chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Thy con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be Arm - ored with all Christ-like grac - es
 we de - plore; Let the search for Thy sal - va - tion

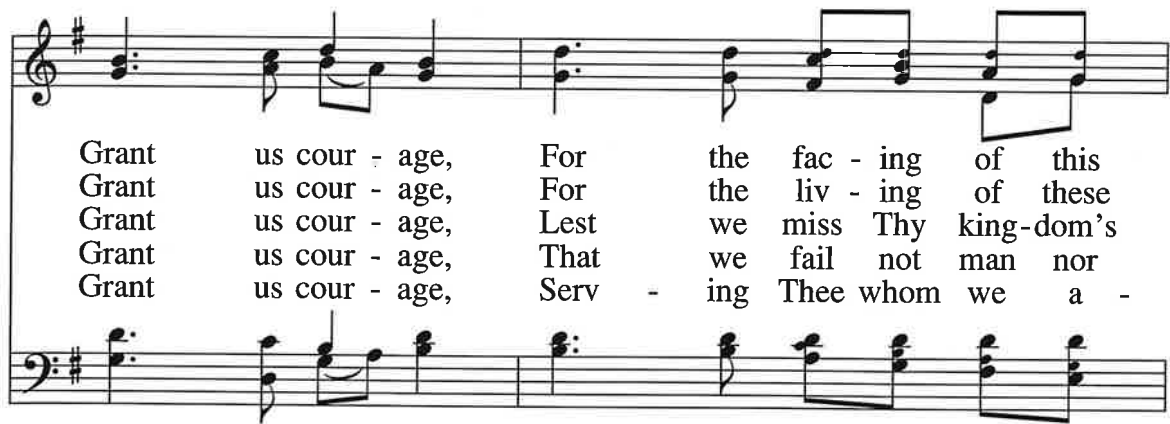


Bring her bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 In the fight to set men free. Grant us wis - dom,
 Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

CWM RHONDDA
 8.7.8.7.8.7.7

Fourth verse: "In the fight to set *us* free" and
 "So that we may honor Thee" or "So that we do not fail Thee"

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE



Grant us cour - age, For the fac - ing of this
Grant us cour - age, For the liv - ing of these
Grant us cour - age, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's
Grant us cour - age, That we fail not man nor
Grant us cour - age, Serv - ing Thee whom we a -



hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
days, For the liv - ing of these days.
goal, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.
Thee, That we fail not man nor Thee.
dore, Serv - ing Thee whom we a - dore. A - men.

God of grace and glory, we lift up our hearts in praise to You this day. You have ever reached out to us in the midst of our sin and darkness to shine Your light of hope into our lives. Before we even knew to call out Your name, You answered our cries. Before our prayers of longing left our lips, You heard and answered.

Merciful Lord, we acknowledge that all we are and all we have flows from Your hand. In the power of the Holy Spirit, You free us from the chains that bind us, and so we thank You. By Your gift of grace, You meet our every need, and so we adore You. With Your blessing of love, You anoint us, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment, and so we praise You.

Holy God, sanctify us and teach us to serve You as true followers of the Servant King. Grant us wisdom to discern Your will, and courage to walk faithfully in its light, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pam Jensen