

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

OCTOBER 11, 2026



BETTER LIFE BETTER WORLD

QUIET MEDITATION

Happiness comes to those who are fair to others and are always just and good.
Remember me too, O Lord, while you are blessing and saving your people. Let me share in your chosen ones' prosperity and rejoice in all their joys, and receive the glory you give to them.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Prelude in E flat Major
by J. S. Bach

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

John Schneider

Leader: God calls us not to stand apart, but to take our place.

People: We are here and we are listening.

Leader: God invites us into the work of love, mercy, and justice.

People: We hear the call and we are willing.

Leader: Come, let us join in the life of God.

All: We are ready to join your work in the world.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 1 (stand as you are able)

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

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.**

ANTHEM

Halle, Hallelujah
arr. John Michniewicz

Combined Children's Choirs

O God, the Rock of Ages, cleft for me. Oh, let me hide myself in thee.
You are the Rock of Ages, cleft for me. Hallelujah!
With nothing in my hands, myself I bring, for simply to the cross, I'll ever cling.
With nothing in my hands, myself I Bring. Hallelujah!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rachael Cooley

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

This morning we are pleased to baptize **Ryan Griffin Lewis**, son of Kaitlyn and Tyler Lewis, and **Graham David Turner**, son of Alison and Corey Turner.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church; for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you, to share the good news of the gospel with you, and to help you know and follow Christ.

HYMN 518

Good Shepherd, Take This Little Child

AMY

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 32:1-14
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 63

Rev. Dobson

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Better Life, Better World: Participation

Rev. Bell Olsson

HYMN 430 vs. 1 & 2 (stand as you are able) *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

CLOSER WALK

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.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

How Great Thou Art
Stuart K. Hine, Arranged by Dan Forrest
Text may be found in Hymn 27

Chancel Choir

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. Dobson

HYMN 45 (stand as you are able)

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

IN BABILONE

BENEDICTION

Rev. Bell Olsson

POSTLUDE

Fugue in E flat Major "St. Anne"
by J. S. Bach

Dr. Brown

Please join us for coffee and Bake Sale in the Atrium after the service.

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



Proceeds will go towards the purchase of new Christmas decorations for the sanctuary windows.



TODAY
following worship
**Christmas
in October
Bake Sale**

HOSTED BY PRISCILLA CIRCLE

Everyone is invited to make and bake your best recipes! Please bring your donated baked goods to the Atrium prior to the Sunday service.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

**Sundays | 9-10am | Chapel
October 11 & 18***

- CHILDCARE AVAILABLE IN THE NURSERY -

There is still time to join Mayflower this fall!

Pastor Ruth is leading a membership class prior to the worship service on October 11 and 18 in the youth room.

***If you are unable to attend on the 11th or 18th, there is a MAKE UP CLASS ON OCTOBER 21 AT 5PM. Contact the office with any questions.**

For more information call 616-459-6255 or email office@mayflowerchurch.org

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 TODAY!
DUE BY OCT. 16.

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATION: WE NEED YOU!

YOU CAN GET INVOLVED WITH THE SERVICE TRIP TOO



The youth of Mayflower will be collecting the following items for their Service Trip to Detroit.

Please bring the items to the church between now and Oct. 18 or CLICK QR code on the left to purchase directly from our Amazon wishlist. We will use these items when assembling care kits

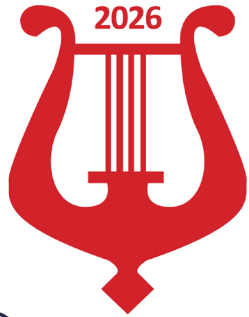
for people experiencing homelessness and stocking up for our weekly winter outreach. All items should be new and unopened, and travel-size wherever noted.

CARE KITS ITEMS

- Toothbrushes, with covers/caps
- Travel-size toothpaste (about 0.85 oz)
- Travel-size mouthwash, ALCOHOL-FREE only (1–3 oz)
- Floss picks (small packs) or travel floss
- Lip balm / ChapStick
- Body wipes, travel packs (10–20 count)
- Travel-size dry shampoo (small powder or aerosol under 2 oz)
- Small packs of gum
- Hand warmers

WINTER OUTREACH SUPPLIES

- Winter-weight socks, wool blend (men's L / one size)
- Summer-weight socks, synthetic/moisture-wicking, NO cotton (men's L)
- Winter hats, knit, one size, dark colors
- Winter gloves: (a mix of one-size stretch gloves and insulated L/XL)
- Hand warmers (bulk boxes are the best value)
- Men's underwear, boxer briefs (M: 15, L: 20, XL: 15, 2XL: 10)
- Women's underwear, briefs (M: 8, L: 10, XL: 8, 2XL: 4)



MONDAYS AT MAYFLOWER

mayflowerchurch.org/concerts

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

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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 MEETING: OCTOBER 13
Join us whenever you are able!

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EGRHS STUDENTS

JOIN US FOR

LUNCH & GIVE!

NEXT SESSION: OCT. 14 DURING 1st & 2nd LUNCH HRS. @ MAYFLOWER

Be a part of a **BETTER WORLD** by showing up with your hands and feet to **DO GOOD THINGS** for people in need.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?



Scan the QR code to reserve your spot so we know how many lunches we need.

***COME FOR A FREE LUNCH**
***LEARN ABOUT NON-PROFITS**
***HELP OUR COMMUNITY**



YOUTH
COLLECTIVE

QDOBA.



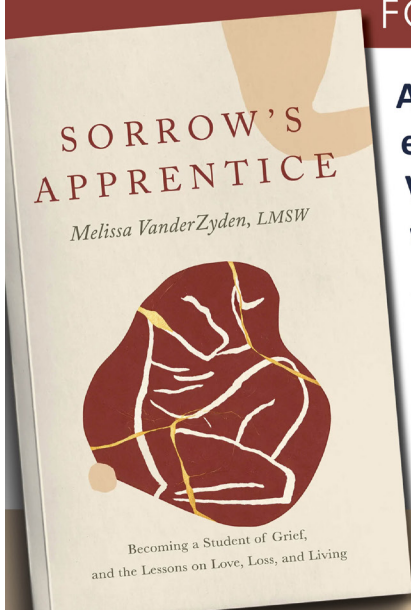
TROLLEY QR

On the 14th, join us for a presentation with AYA Youth Collective and a Q'doba lunch. AYA supports people ages 14-24 who face housing insecurity, instability, or homelessness. **TROLLEY PICK-UP** at GERKIN PLAZA at the EGR high school – **Parental consent needed** (QR ON LEFT). Contact Rachael Cooley for more information.

ROBINSON ROAD WRITERS PRESENTS:

A BOOK TALK | OCT 18

FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP



A tender reflection of how grief is so often an echo of love, *Sorrow's Apprentice* is Melissa VanderZyden's postmodern memoir that weaves together her personal journey with grief, clinical insights, and the transformative nature of loss.

Join Melissa after worship on October 18 as she discusses her book and shares insights.



MAYFLOWER
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Robinson Road
WRITERS



LADIES' LUNCHEON

Tuesday | Oct 20 | 11:30 am

550 Lakeside Drive SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

RSVP Shirley VanderWilt
616-648-8848



CONFIRMATION CLASS

8TH GRADERS AND OLDER ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

Nov. 1 and Dec. 6 | 9-10am



CONTACT PASTOR KENT TO SIGN UP OR WITH QUESTIONS: [KENT@MAYFLOWERCHURCH.ORG](mailto:kent@mayflowerchurch.org)



EVENING WORSHIP | SUNDAY, NOV. 1 @ 5pm

Sing. Learn. Eat.

Our monthly worship gathering will meet on the **first Sunday of each month**. We will gather in the sanctuary for learning and music led by Sean Ivory followed by a light meal in fellowship hall.

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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DOUBTS ON DRAFT | THURS., NOV. 12* | 5PM

Nov. 12, we will continue our informal gatherings with Pastor Kent at Vivant Brewery. This is a chance to meet new people, talk theology and faith, and generally have a good time.

Please send Kent an email (kent@mayflowerchurch.org) if you plan on coming. Anyone is welcome, bring a friend!

*Due to a scheduling conflict, we will be meeting on the 2nd Thursday in November instead of the 1st.

Calendar

Today, October 11

9am | New Members' Class

10:30am | Morning Worship

11:30am | Bake Sale

OCTOBER

12 Women's Bible Study | 9:30am

Women's Bible Study | 5pm

Mondays at Mayflower | 6:15pm

13 Breakfast Club | 6:30am

Faith 101 | 8am

Needlepoint & Stitching | 10am

Outreach Mtg. | 12pm

Council Mtg. | 6:30pm

14 Lunch & Give | EGRHS lunch hour

Midweek | 3pm

Congregational Care Mtg. | 4pm

Mayflower Bells | 6pm

*Al-Anon** | 7pm

Chancel Choir | 7:15pm

15 Women's Bible Study | 10am

Bible Study | 5pm

16 Men's Bible Study | 7am

18 New Members' Class | 9am

Morning Worship | 10:30am

Book Talk | 11:30am

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?

Mayflower sets its annual budget based on "Commitment Cards." These cards represent pledges that individuals or households commit to giving over the course of the following year to fund the ministry of the church.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS COMING | NOVEMBER 15

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 **Max Frantz** and Allison Bowers on their marriage that took place at Mayflower on Oct. 10. (10/10)

We celebrate with the **Lewis** and **Turner** families on the baptism of their sons on Oct. 11. (10/6)

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)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for **Barbara Hoekzema** who is recovering from a leg injury. (10/8)

Please pray for **Greg Barry** and his family as they navigate health issues. (9/29)

We lift up **Kirsti Burghart** as she is supporting her sister (and her 5 children) as she goes through chemo treatments. (9/29)

PRAY FOR FRIENDS OF MAYFLOWER

Please pray for **Jennifer Hohman's** neighbor, **Tiffany**, who is battling breast cancer. (10/6)

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

Please pray for **Sue Defoe** and her family in the loss of Sue's father, Hans Roeller, who passed away at the age of 98, a loving husband, father, and grandparent, who will be greatly missed. (10/6)

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" Visser, 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 THE WORLD

This week we are focusing on better participation with Jesus. One way we can participate as the global church is to unite in prayer for justice, mercy, hope, and healing in the places around our world that are in desperate need of them.

We pray this week for Mayflower's outreach partner Energy for Mission (EFM). EFM is located in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in the city of Goma. This region was overtaken by the M23 rebels last January, and the EFM staff has continued their work leading peace and reconciliation workshops, faith restoration workshops, and trauma recovery for those who have been brutalized by violence in these many years of conflict. Recently we learned that the M23 rebel leadership has been attending some of the peace workshops! "God is working!" Pastor Marcel, the EFM Director, told us.

Holy God, we know you work in mysterious and miraculous ways. We pray that you continue to do so in DRC. Strengthen Pastor Marcel and his team as they go throughout the city and into rural villages with your words of truth and peace. We pray for the women who have been subjected to violence and trauma, that your hand of healing will rest on them. We pray for EFM to receive the resources they need to continue their work, and for their safety and security in these dangerous times. May your glory be on display and may your Spirit shine. 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.

SERMON NOTES:

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.

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

1

Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

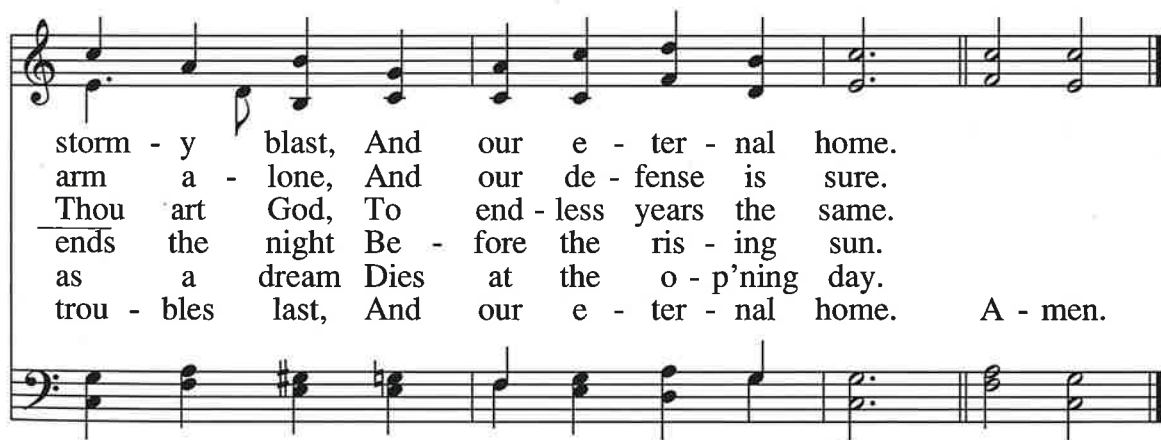
Attrib. to William Croft, 1678–1727



1. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or
 4. A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight Are
 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Bears
 6. Our God, our help in a - ges past, Our



hope for years to come, Our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; Suf - fi - cient is Thine
earth re - ceived her frame, From ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, Short as the watch that
 all its sons a - way; They fly for - got - ten,
 hope for years to come, Be Thou our guard while



storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home.
 arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 as a dream Dies at the o - p'ning day.
 trou - bles last, And our e - ter - nal home. A - men.

ST. ANNE
CM

Good Shepherd, Take This Little Child 518

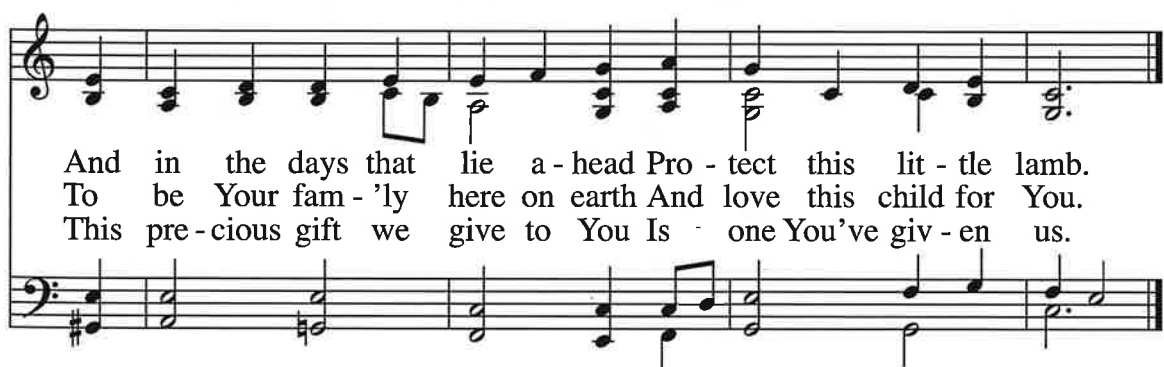
Claire Cloninger, 1942–

Kenneth P. Barker, 1955–

Unison

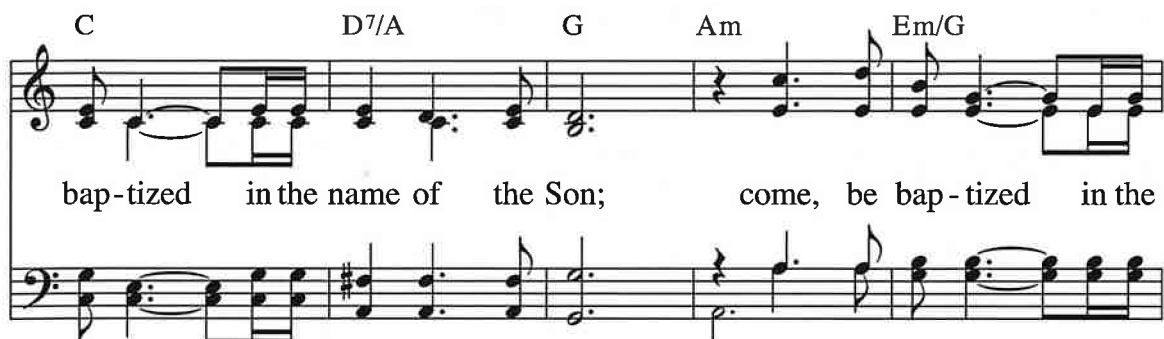


1. Good Shep-herd, take this lit - tle child In - to Your lov - ing hands;
 2. Good Shep-herd, we com - mit our - selves In ev - 'ry - thing we do
 3. Good Shep-herd, now we place this child In - to Your gen - tle trust;



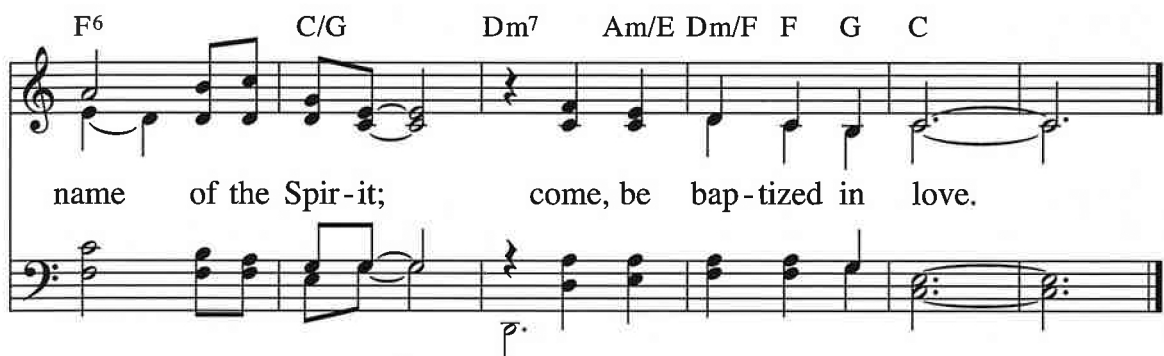
And in the days that lie a - head Pro - tect this lit - tle lamb.
 To be Your fam - 'ly here on earth And love this child for You.
 This pre - cious gift we give to You Is - one You've giv - en us.

C D7/A G Am Em/G



bap - tized in the name of the Son; come, be bap - tized in the

F6 C/G Dm7 Am/E Dm/F F G C



name of the Spir - it; come, be bap - tized in love.

Anonymous

Unison

Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with Thee, Grant it
1. I am weak but Thou art strong; Je - sus,
2. Through this world of toil and snares, If I
3. When my fee - ble life is o'er, Time for

Je - sus, is my plea. Dai - ly walk - ing close to
keep me from all wrong; I'll be sat - is - fied as
fal - ter, Lord, who cares? Who with me my bur - den
me will be no more; Guide me gen - tly, safe - ly

Thee, Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.
long As I walk, dear Lord, close to Thee.
shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
o'er To Thy king - dom shore, to Thy shore.

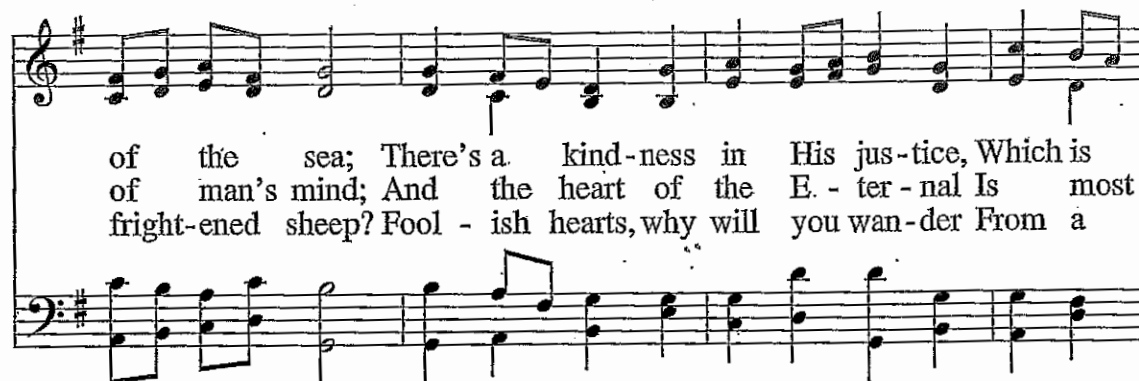
CLOSER WALK

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

Traditional Dutch Melody
Arr. by Julius Röntgen, 1855-1933

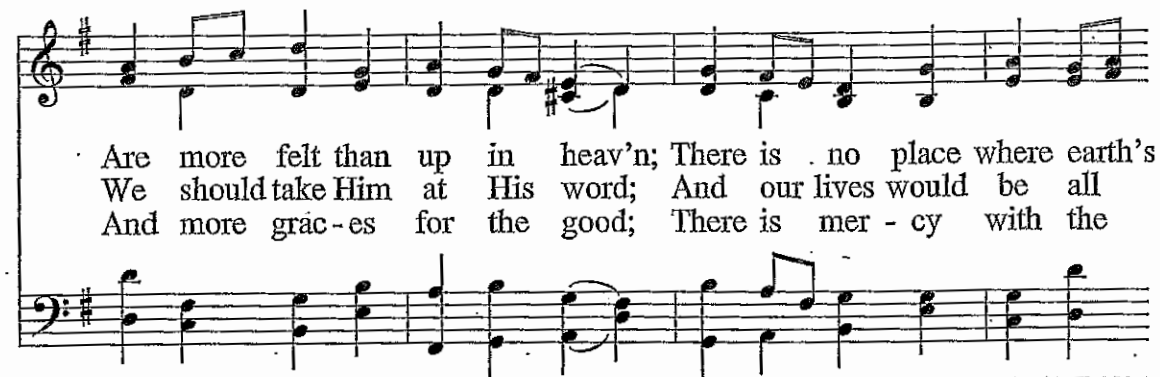

1. There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, Like the wide-ness
2. For the love of God is broad-er Than the meas-ure
3. Trou-bled souls, why will you scat-ter Like a crowd of



of the sea; There's a kind-ness in His jus-tice, Which is
of man's mind; And the heart of the E-ter-nal Is most
fright-ened sheep? Fool-ish hearts, why will you wan-der From a



more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's sor-rows
won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more sim-ple,
love so true and deep? There is wel-come for the sin-ner



Are more felt than up in heav'n; There is no place where earth's
We should take Him at His word; And our lives would be all
And more grac-es for the good; There is mer-cy with the

"He," "Him," or "His" may be replaced by "God(s)" or "You(r)."
Second verse: "Than the measure of our minds"

IN BABILONE
8.7.8.7 D

fail - ings Have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
sun - shine In the sweet - ness of our Lord.
Sav - ior, There is heal - ing in His blood. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble staff at the top and a bass staff at the bottom. Both staves are in the key of G major, indicated by a single sharp (F#) on the key signature. The treble staff begins with a treble clef and the bass staff with a bass clef. The melody is written in the treble staff, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: "fail - ings Have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n. sun - shine In the sweet - ness of our Lord. Sav - ior, There is heal - ing in His blood. A - men." The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.