

MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP

OCTOBER 18, 2026

BETTER LIFE BETTER WORLD

QUIET MEDITATION

The King who rules with strength also treasures justice. You *created* order and established what is right. You have carried out justice and done what is right to the people of Jacob. Lift up the Eternal our God *in your heart*; bow down *to the earth* where He rests His feet. He is holy, perfect and *exalted* in His power.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Kyrie, Gott Vater in Ewigkeit (Kyrie, God in Heaven)
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

Allison Houlihan

Leader: Faith is not only what we believe, but how we live.

People: Teach us to practice the way of love.

Leader: In our work, our words, and our relationships, make us faithful.

People: May our lives become our prayer.

Leader: Give us courage to practice what we profess.

People: And patience to begin again when we fall short.

HYMN 37 (stand as you are able)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

Bold text or music score indicates congregational response.

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

Teach Me, O Lord
by Thomas Attwood

Chancel Choir

Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rachael Cooley

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 33:7–11
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 64

Rev. Bell Olsson

John 14:15–20
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 764

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Better Life, Better World: Presence

Rev. Dobson

HYMN 239 vs. 1 & 2 (stand as you are able) *Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness*

SPIRIT

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

The Eyes Of All Wait Upon Thee
by Jean Berger

Chancel Choir

The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season.
Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of ev'ry living thing.

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 579 (stand as you are able) *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing*

SICILIAN MARINERS

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dobson

POSTLUDE

Fugue on B-A-C-H
by Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713-1780)

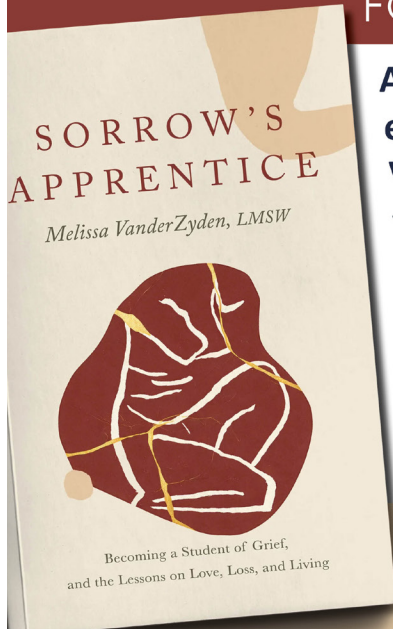
Dr. Brown

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

ROBINSON ROAD WRITERS PRESENTS: BOOK TALK | TODAY | 11:45am

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 at Mayflower Church after worship in the chapel on October 18 as she discusses her book and shares insights.



Melissa VanderZyden, LMSW

MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Robinson Road
WRITERS

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

MAYFLOWER MONTHLY FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF 8/31/26

	Month	YTD	FY Budget
Income	\$99,229	\$1,082,011	\$1,387,916
Expense	(\$121,744)	\$939,898	\$1,387,656
Net Income	(\$22,514)	\$142,114	\$260

Pledges received YTD: 76%

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS COMING | NOVEMBER 15



DID YOU KNOW?

Mayflower spends over \$50,000 per year on property and casualty insurance?

DETROIT OUTREACH | DONATIONS NEEDED



The youth of Mayflower will be collecting the following items to help those in need during their Service Trip to Detroit. **Please purchase and bring the items to the church between now and Oct. 22 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)



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)

LIFE LEGACY WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 | 11:30AM | CHAPEL

We are all going to *leave a legacy* of some kind...

What is your legacy going to be? How will you be remembered?



LIFE LEGACY

These are big questions to ponder, and in this workshop we will explore your spiritual legacy, your financial legacy, and your memorial legacy.

A workbook will be provided.

There will be a light LUNCH provided.

To RSVP, please call the church office 616-459-6255.

Calendar

Today, October 18

9am | New Members' Class
10:30am | Morning Worship

OCTOBER

19 Women's Bible Study | 9:30am
Women's Bible Study | 5pm
Mondays at Mayflower | 7pm

20 Breakfast Club | 6:30am
Membership Mtg. | 8am
Faith 101 | 8am
Needlepoint & Stitching | 10am
Ladies' Luncheon | 11:30am
Mobile Food Pantry (Downtown) | 5pm

21 Midweek | 3pm
New Members' Makeup Class | 5pm
Mayflower Bells | 6pm
Al-Anon* | 7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:15pm

22 Women's Bible Study | 10am
Bible Study | 5pm

23 Men's Bible Study | 7am

24 MS and HS Trip | Leave church at 7:30am

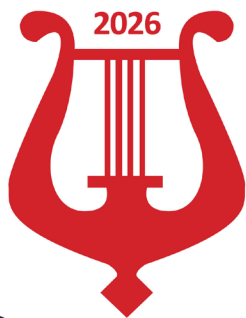
25 Morning Worship | 10:30am

NOVEMBER 1 | 5pm

Sing. Learn. Eat.

A Monthly Gathering

All are invited to join us for night church
and a light meal on Nov. 1.



MONDAYS
AT
MAYFLOWER

mayflowerchurch.org/concerts

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

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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 families of **Ryan Griffin Lewis** and **Graham David Turner** on their baptism on Oct. 11. (10/6)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We pray for peace and comfort for **Don and Ann Kelley** who are experiencing failing health. (10/13)

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)

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

This week we are focusing on better presence with God. We call in God's presence when we pray.

This week we continue to pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and our outreach partner Energy for Mission (EFM). Mayflower's Outreach Committee approved funding this week for EFM's trauma recovery program. We pray for the women in this program, for their healing and restoration. We thank God for the work EFM is doing in Eastern Congo.

We also pray for Divine intervention as Ebola continues to spread in Eastern Congo. We lift up to God those infected, those dying, and those grieving loved ones who have died of this terrible virus. We pray for the health care workers and for the international efforts to quell the spread of this deadly outbreak.

Lord, May your mercy flow.

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.

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 | **Kristen Van Stee**, Communications Coordinator

Murry Idema, May-Flowers Ministry | **Rachel Blair**, Congregational Care 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.

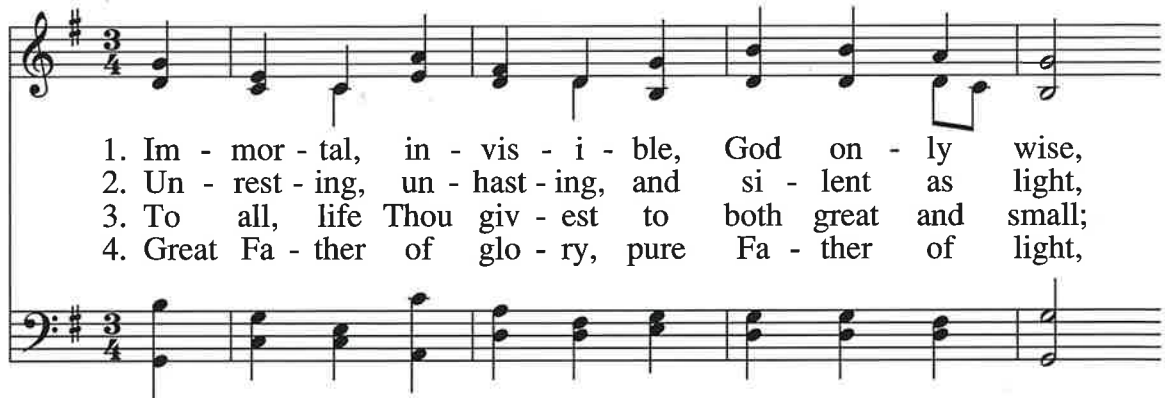
THE TRIUNE GOD

37

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

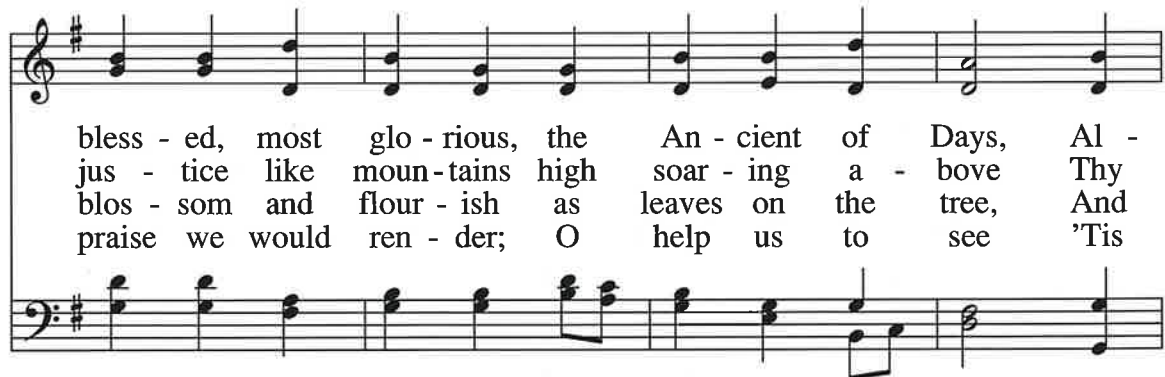
Welsh Hymn



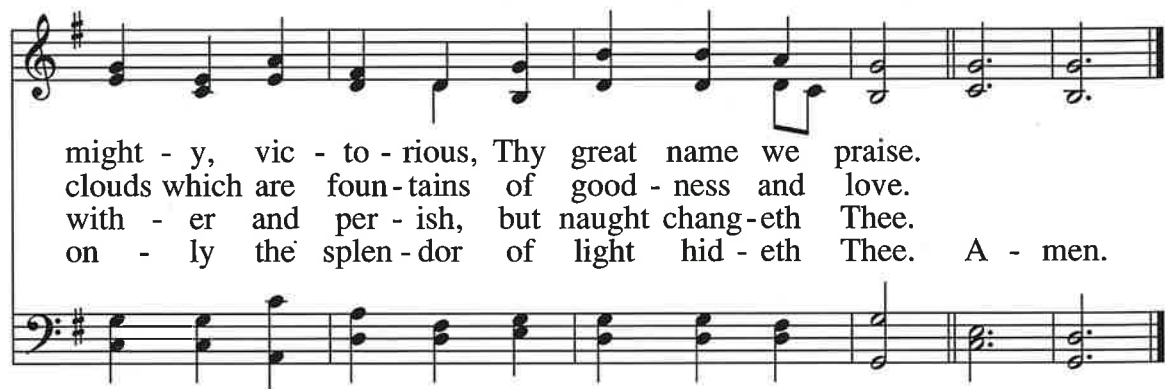
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3. To all, life Thou giv - est to both great and small;
 4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes, Most
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in night; Thy
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all; We
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight; All



bles - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days, Al -
 jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove Thy
 blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree, And
 praise we would ren - der; O help us to see 'Tis



might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth Thee.
 on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee. A - men.

ST. DENIO
 11.11.11.11

THE FATHER

Majesty and Power

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

James K. Manley, 1940–
Refrain

James K. Manley, 1940–

D G A D

Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle-ness, blow through the

Bm E A D

wil - der - ness call - ing and free; Spir -

G A D Bm

it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness, stir me from plac - id - ness,

G A⁷ D G D

wind, wind on the sea.

Verses D G A G D

1. You moved on the wa - ters, You called to the deep,
 2. You swept through the des - ert, You stung with the sand
 3. You sang in a sta - ble, You cried from a hill,
 4. You call from to - mor - row, You break an - cient schemes.

THE TRIUNE GOD

A D Bm

Then You coaxed up the moun - tains from the
And You goad - ed Your peo - ple with a
Then You whis - pered in si - lence when the
From the bond - age of sor - row all the

E A D G A

val - leys of sleep; And o - ver the e - ons You
law and a land; And when they were blind - ed with
whole world was still; And down in the cit - y You
cap - tives dream dreams; Our wom - en see vi - sions, our

G D Bm

called to each thing: "A - wake from your
i - dols and lies, Then You spoke through Your
called once a - gain, When You blew through Your
men clear their eyes. With bold new de -

Gmaj7 Em7 A7 D D.C.

slum - bers and rise on your wings."
proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.
peo - ple on the rush of the wind.
ci - sions Your peo - ple a - rise.

SERVICE MUSIC

579

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Attr. to John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

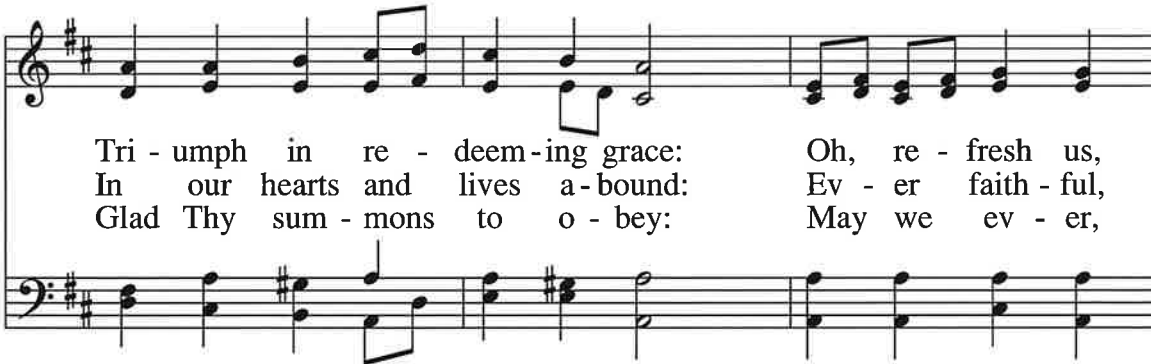
Sicilian Melody
Tattersall's *Psalmody*, 1794



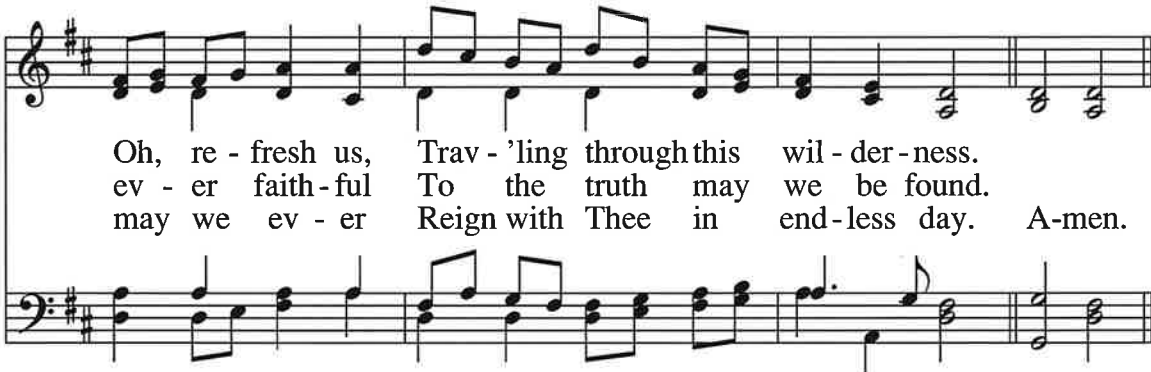
1. Lord, dis - miss us with Thy bless - ing; Fill our hearts with
2. Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Thy Gos - pel's
3. So that when Thy love shall call us, Sav - ior, from the



joy and peace; Let us each, Thy love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; May the fruits of Thy sal - va - tion
world a - way, Fear of death shall not ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: Oh, re - fresh us,
In our hearts and lives a - bound: Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Thy sum - mons to o - bey: May we ev - er,



Oh, re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful To the truth may we be found.
may we ev - er Reign with Thee in end - less day. A - men.

SICILIAN MARINERS
8.7.8.7.8.7