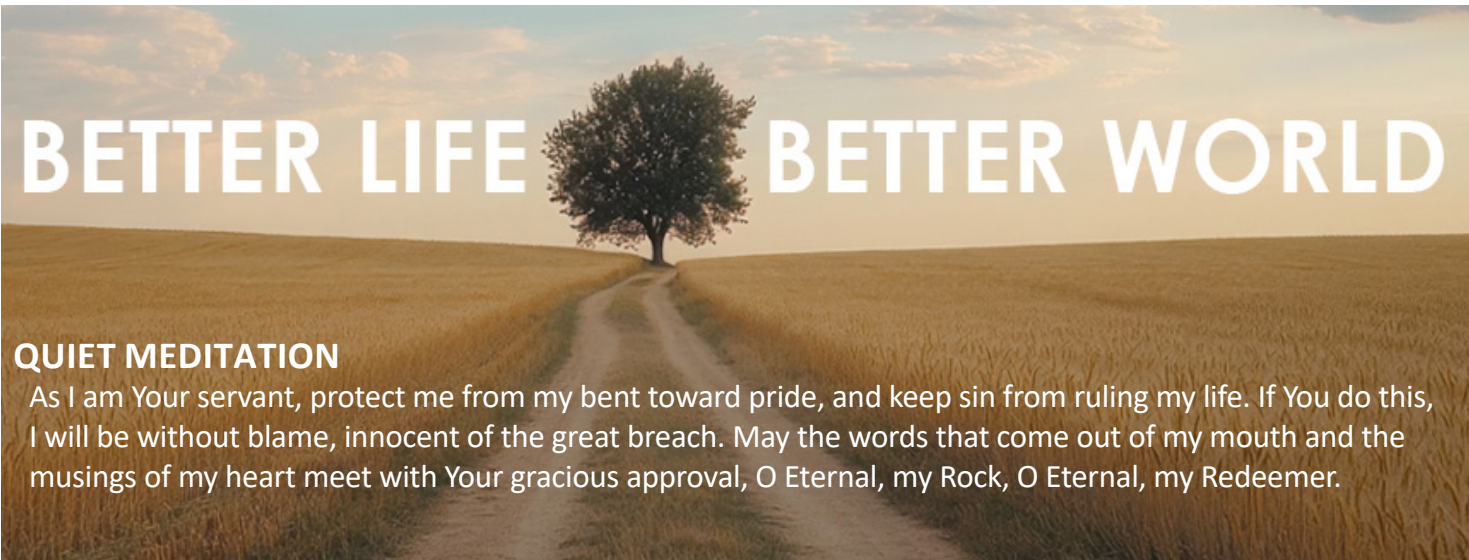


MAYFLOWER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 4, 2026



BETTER LIFE BETTER WORLD

QUIET MEDITATION

As I am Your servant, protect me from my bent toward pride, and keep sin from ruling my life. If You do this, I will be without blame, innocent of the great breach. May the words that come out of my mouth and the musings of my heart meet with Your gracious approval, O Eternal, my Rock, O Eternal, my Redeemer.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Dies sind die Heiligen Zehn gebot BWV 678
(These are the holy ten commandments)
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

Robin Dhaseleer

Leader: We are not here by accident. We have been called into a life of meaning and purpose.

People: Yet we do not always know the way.

Leader: God has given us a path: to love God and to live that love in the world.

People: Shape our lives around what matters most.

All: Let us worship the God who calls us to a life of purpose.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 8 (stand as you are able)

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

OLD HUNDREDTH

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

Exodus 20
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 54

Rev. Dobson

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Better Life, Better World: Purpose

Rev. Bell Olsson

HYMN 528 (stand as you are able)

As We Gather at Your Table

RAQUEL

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Dobson

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Baba Yetu
by Christopher Tin
Swahili adaptation of "The Lord's Prayer" by Chris Kiagiri

Chancel Choir
Brennen Kartes, alto
Ryan Potts, tenor

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.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

We practice an open table and all are welcome to participate. The feast is for everyone. The ushers will come forward to release you by rows. Take the bread and eat it; take the cup and drink it. You may deposit the cups in the baskets provided. Please return to your seat by the side aisles. You are also welcome to take the elements to your seat and partake when you are ready. If you would like the elements brought to you, signal an usher. Our sacramental elements are gluten free bread and grape juice.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Open Thou Mine Eyes
by John Rutter

Chancel Choir
Melissa Blanchard, alto

Open thou mine eyes and I shall see: Incline my heart and I shall desire:
Order my steps and I shall walk in the ways of thy commandments.

O Lord God, be thou to me a God and beside thee let there be none else, No other, nought else with thee. Vouchsafe to me to worship thee and serve thee according to thy commandments, in truth of spirit, in rev'rence of body, in blessing of lips, in private and public. Open thou mine eyes...

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 536 (stand as you are able) *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*

LINSTEAD

BENEDICTION

Rev. Bell Olsson

POSTLUDE

Postlude on LINSTEAD
by Charles Ore

Dr. Brown

Today's flowers are placed in celebration of Helen Bell's birthday from her family.

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



EVENING WORSHIP | TONIGHT @ 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.

WORLD COMMUNION 2026 | MUSIC NOTES

As we worship together on this World Communion Sunday we celebrate our connections to the whole kingdom of God, all cultures, races, languages, faiths. The music we experience this morning reflects this diversity and celebrates our oneness. By crossing into another's culture we are reminded that we are all neighbors, and that our church is truly a global church.

The chorale *Dies sind die heiligen zehn Gebot* is a setting by Martin Luther of the Ten Commandments. Bach sets the fascinating melody, which begins with six repeated notes, in canon (a word synonymous with law). In Bach's organ setting there are three layers of material (right hand, left hand, pedal), but the top and middle layer are each in a duet form. The left-hand chorale melody is heard in canon, perhaps symbolizing God's law, with the right and giving a pair of lines that weave in and out of each other with a pastoral affect, perhaps suggesting that God's law is a good way to live. The subtle interplay of harmony and rhythm leads to moments of great beauty.

Our opening hymn *All People that on Earth do Dwell*, is a metrical setting of Psalm 100 by William Kethe (d. ca. 1594) of Scotland. The OLD 100th tune is from Louis Bourgeois' Genevan Psalter of 1551. Kethe's paraphrase invites the whole earth to joyful worship of God. It is a reminder that we belong to God and that God's steadfast love endures forever.

Our Offertory anthem is a Swahili adaptation of the Lord's prayer (*Baba Yetu*), originally composed by Christopher Tin as the theme song for the video

game *Civilization IV*. Since its debut in 2005, it's become an immensely popular choral work and one of the most critically acclaimed pieces of music written for a video game, winning a Grammy Award in 2011.

The motet *Open Thou Mine Eyes* is based on a prayer by one of the greatest figures in late renaissance English literature and principal editor and translator of the King James Version of the Bible, Lancelot Andrewes, Anglican bishop of Chichester, Ely, and Winchester dioceses in the 16th century. It is found in his book of Daily Prayers published posthumously in 1648. The text was set in 1980 by the English composer John Rutter (b. 1945) as a commission by the Texas Choral Director's Association. It is written in a very gentle and simple style, inspired by Celtic folksong.

A lively 20th century communion hymn, *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*, was first sung at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi, Africa, in 1975. The lyrics were composed by poet and theologian Fred Kaan (1929-2009) at the request of composer Doreen Potter who had adapted a Jamaican folk song. Fred Kaan was born and raised in the Netherlands. The Nazi occupation and its aftermath there had a profound influence on his life which then led him to England and into the ministry of the British Congregational church. He began writing hymns in the 1960s. The Jamaican tune was arranged by Doreen Potter (1925-1980) who lived in Jamaica during her childhood. American organist and composer living in Lincoln, NE wrote a charming rhythmic organ setting of this tune, heard at the end of today's service.

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:

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.** Reach out to Rachael Cooley with questions.

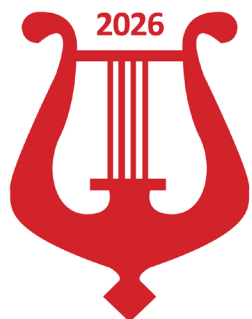
Below is a list of items that would help in two ways: assembling care kits for people experiencing homelessness and stocking up for our weekly winter outreach. All items should be new and unopened, and travel-size wherever noted.

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

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

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

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 6

MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**CASCADE
TRAILS**
A Leisure Living Community

69 UP EVENT

Thursday | October 8 | 5 pm

1221 Spaulding
(park in front)

RSVP Murry Idema
616-901-3842



NEW MEMBERS CLASS

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

- CHILDCARE AVAILABLE IN THE NURSERY -

Are you ready?

The next Mayflower membership class will be held Sundays Oct. 11 & 18 from 9-10am in the Youth Room. We would love to have you JOIN us!

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



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



SUNDAY, Oct 11
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.

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**



AYA YOUTH COLLECTIVE

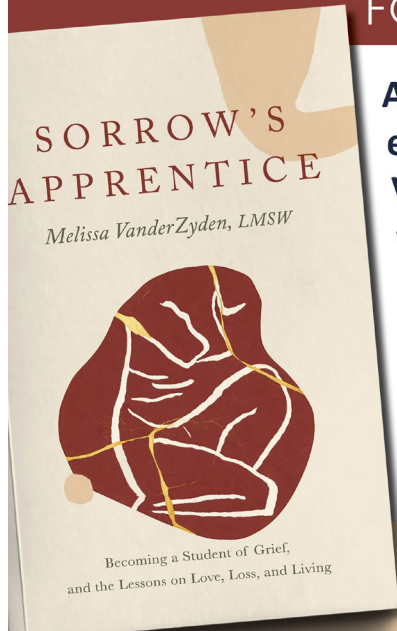
QDOBA



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 info.

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 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Robinson Road WRITERS

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



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

Calendar

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

Today, October 4

10:30am | Communion Sunday
5pm | Night Church

OCTOBER

- 5

Women's Bible Study | 9:30am
Women's Bible Study | 5pm
Mondays at Mayflower | 7pm
- 6

Breakfast Club | 6:30am
Faith 101 | 8am
Needlepoint & Stitching | 10am
- 7

Priscilla Circle | 11am
Midweek | 3pm
Mayflower Bells | 6pm
*Al-Anon** | 7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:15pm
- 8

Women's Bible Study | 10am
69 UP Event (Cascade Trails) | 5pm
Bible Study | 5pm
- 9

Men's Bible Study | 7am
- 11

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

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS COMING | NOVEMBER 15



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.

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)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

On this World Communion Sunday we pray for the global church and its members. We pray for unity amidst our diversity. We pray for the Holy Spirit to bind us together and bring peace where there is discord, love where there is enmity.

Holy God, we know there are people in our world who live without stable housing. Many face each night unsure of where they will lay their head. We pray for those who are scared, lonely, vulnerable and exposed. We pray for doors to open and for beds to become available for those who desperately need them. We pray for empty homes, apartments, and rooms to be filled with the individuals and families who have been praying for them.

This week we lift up to you our local outreach partner AYA as they serve youth experiencing housing instability. No young person should feel unloved, unwelcome or unwanted. We thank you for the work AYA does creating community and support for our local youth who need it the most. May your Spirit guide and direct them, and may we all work toward a world in which organizations like AYA are no longer needed. 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



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.

THE TRIUNE GOD

8

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Psalm 100

William Kethe, ca. -1594

Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, ca. 1510-1561

Genevan Psalter, 1551

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell,
 2. The Lord, ye know, is God in - deed;
 3. O en - ter then His gates with praise;
 4. For why? the Lord our God is good,
 5. To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,

Sing to the Lord with cheer - ful voice;
 With - out our aid He did us make;
 Ap - proach with joy His courts un - to;
 His mer - cy is for - ev - er sure;
 The God whom heav'n and earth a - dore,

Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,
 We are His flock, He doth us feed,
 Praise, laud, and bless His name al - ways,
 His truth at all times firm - ly stood,
 From earth and from the an - gel host

Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
 And for His sheep He doth us take.
 For it is seem - ly so to do.
 And shall from age to age en - dure.
 Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more. A - men.

OLD HUNDREDTH

LM

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

THE FATHER

Praise to God

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

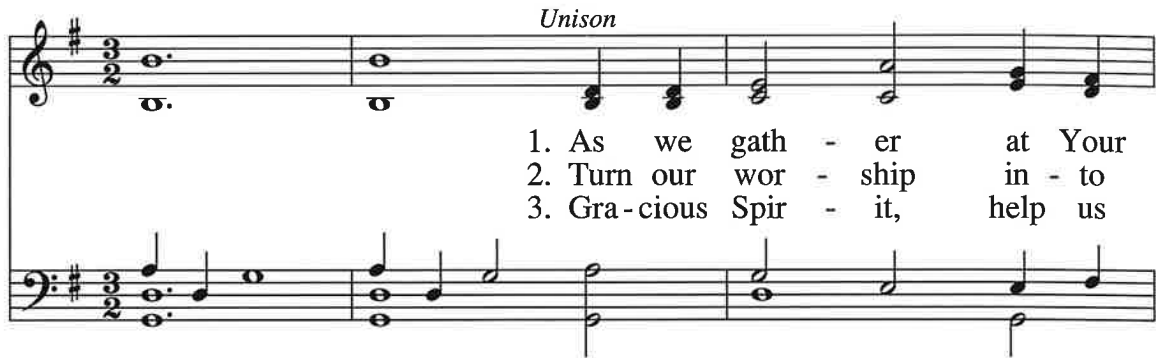
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As We Gather at Your Table

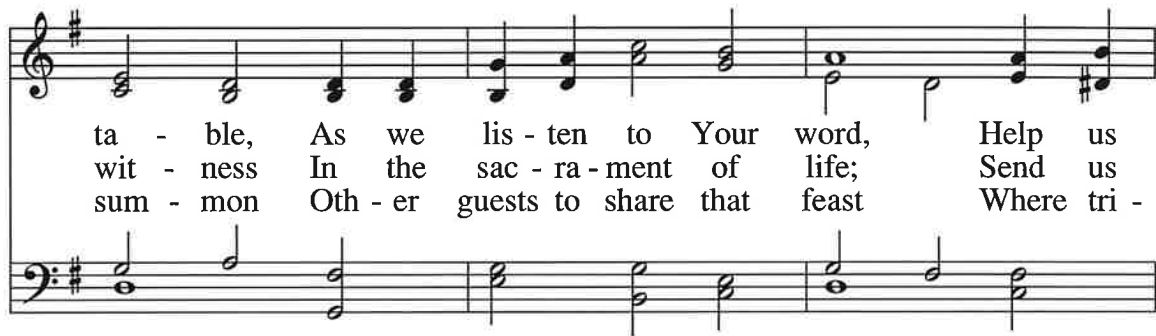
Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944-

Skinner Chavez-Melo, 1944-1992

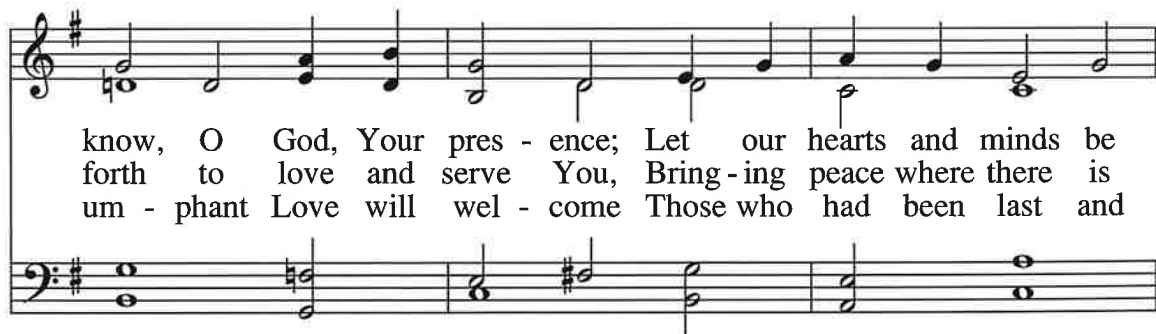
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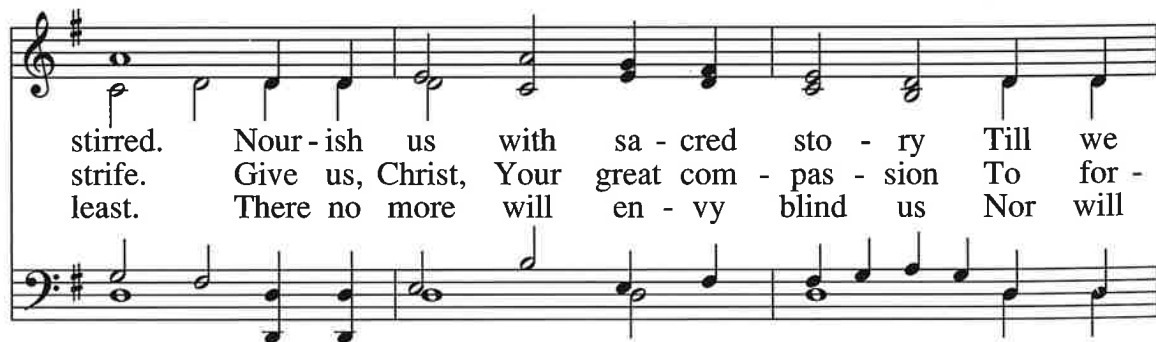
1. As we gath - er at Your
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us



ta - ble, As we lis - ten to Your word, Help us
wit - ness In the sac - ra - ment of life; Send us
sum - mon Oth - er guests to share that feast Where tri -



know, O God, Your pres - ence; Let our hearts and minds be
forth to love and serve You, Bring - ing peace where there is
um - phant Love will wel - come Those who had been last and



stirred. Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry Till we
strife. Give us, Christ, Your great com - pas - sion To for -
least. There no more will en - vy blind us Nor will

RAQUEL
8.7.8.7 D

Text © 1989, Hope Publishing Company
Tune © 1985, Skinner Chavez-Melo

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

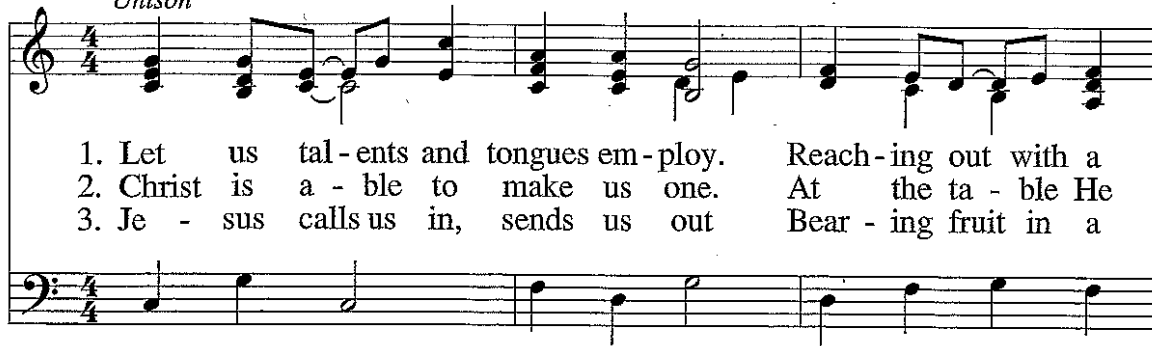
claim it as our own; Teach us through this ho - ly
give as You for - gave; May we still be - hold Your
pride our peace de - stroy, As we join with saints and

ban - quet How to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
im - age In the world You died to save.
an - gels To re - peat the sound - ing joy.

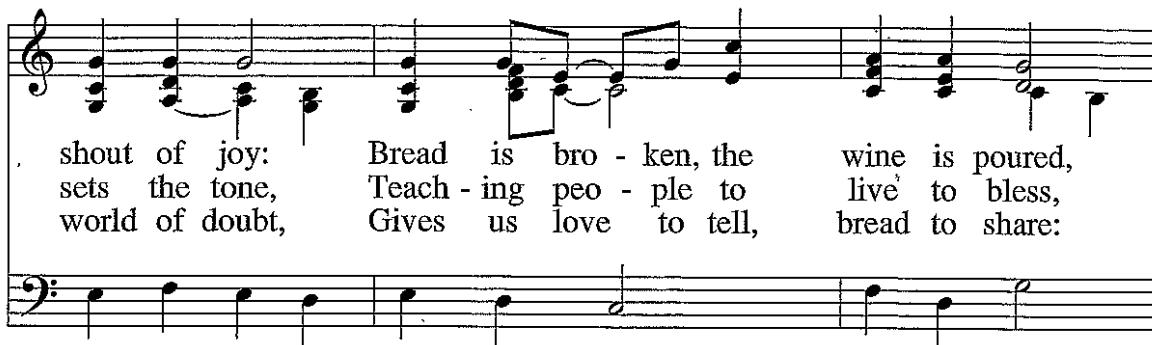
Dear Lord, it is with humble hearts that we come before Your presence to give thanks for the many blessings that You have so freely given to us, Your people. Grant us the insight to recognize these blessings. We ask that each one of us may become Your disciple, showing Your love to others. May Your great love radiate through us to our families, churches and communities. Help us and guide us each day to be more loving in all our relationships. As Christians, may we always follow Your commandment to love one another. Amen.

Lois Rosebrooks

Unison



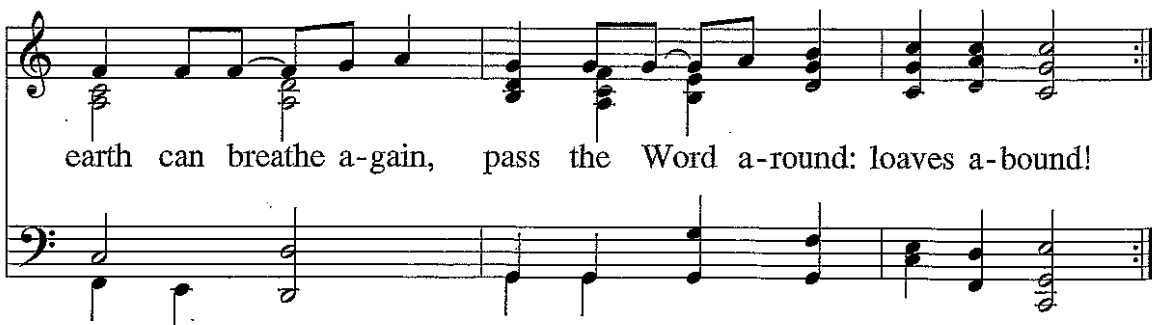
1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy. Reach - ing out with a
 2. Christ is a - ble to make us one. At the ta - ble He
 3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out Bear - ing fruit in a



shout of joy: Bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
 sets the tone, Teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, Gives us love to tell, bread to share:



Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 Love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

LINSTEAD
 LM with Refrain