MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP **NOVEMBER 8, 2026**

GENEROUS JOY

2027 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 15

Stewardship Sunday is the day Mayflower congregants commit to supporting the church financially in the year to come. **JOIN US!**

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Improvisation* Sean Ivory, piano

WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Kent Dobson

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH Rachael Cooley

CALL TO GENEROUS JOY Andrew and Clay Stiffler, Vice Moderator

CALL TO WORSHIP Mitch Ponstein, Council member

Leader: There are many ways before us, and many voices calling for our allegiance.

People: Today we choose the way of faithfulness.

Leader: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

People: May our lives make that choice visible.

Leader: Give us courage to choose what is good, even when it is difficult.

People: And let our homes become places where faith is lived and shared.

Bold text or music score indicates congregational response.

PROCSESIONAL HYMN 37 (stand as you are able)

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise ST. DENIO

OPENING PRAYER Mitch Ponstein

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 Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25 Mitch Ponstein
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 168
Matthew 4:8-10
PEW BIBLE, PAGE 683
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *Choose for Yourself This Day* Rev. Dobson

HYMN 445 (stand as you are able) *Make Me a Servant* SERVANT

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 *Worthy to Be Praised* Chancel Choir
by Byron James

Holy, holy, holy. Praise our God almighty. Worthy and holy. Lord eternally.

Refrain: Praise the Lord in the highest, Praise His Holy name. Let all things that haveth a breath just praise the Lord.
I believe in the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. I will sing; He's worthy to be praised!

We have come into the house of the Lord, to praise His Holy name. To give glory, honor and adore His Son whose life He gave. Let the trumpet sound, let the rocks resound, our sinful souls He saved.
I will sing; I will shout; He's worthy to be praised! (Refrain)

Verse 2: Raise your voices high and sing to the Lord, He's worthy to be praised. Shout hosanna high to God for His everlasting grace. Let the trumpet sound, let the rocks resound, our grateful voices raise!
I will sing; I will shout; He's worthy to be praised! (Refrain)

Sing hosanna. Oh praise ye the Lord. Let every voice sing out that He's worthy to be praised.
I believe in the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. I will sing; He's worthy to be praised!

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 (remain standing) Rev. Dobson

HYMN 307 (remain standing) *We Are Called*

BENEDICTION Rev. Dobson

POSTLUDE *Improvisation* Sean Ivory, piano

Altar flowers are placed by Suzanne Shelton, dedicated to the Veterans.

We welcome Sean Ivory this morning, our Music Associate who plays for our Sunday evening services.

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*

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15
JOEL SCHOON TANIS

Artist Joel Schoon-Tanis will be joining us for worship on November 15. Following the service, Joel will lead the congregation in an art activity to prepare us for the coming season of advent. We plan to use what is created as we move through our advent theme of *REVEAL*. We invite you to join us for this fun-filled activity in the Atrium.

REVEAL

INVITATION TO **GENEROUS JOY**

Each year at Mayflower, the church community makes financial pledges for the upcoming fiscal year. These generous commitments help us set our budget so we can faithfully fulfill our mission, to be a beacon of faith, hope and love. We're inviting families and individuals to fill out commitment cards expressing their financial intentions for the coming year. As we continue to grow, your support is essential. Our goal this year is to make 250 commitments.

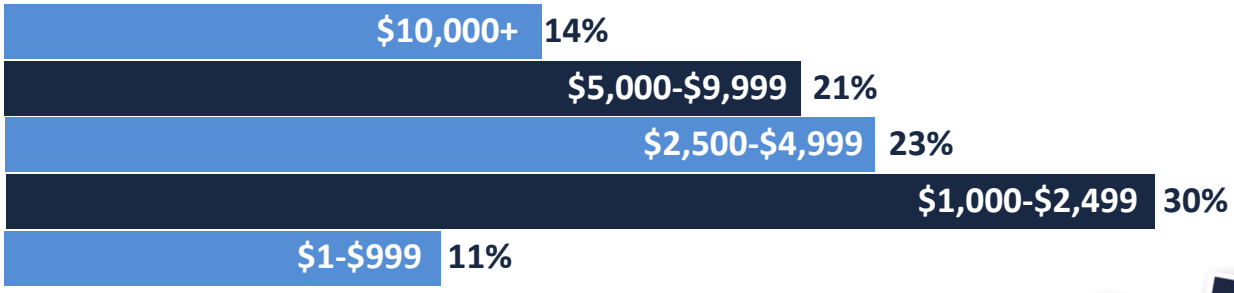
» GOAL for 2027 is 250 COMMITEMENT PLEDGES «

2026 COMMITMENTS AT A GLANCE

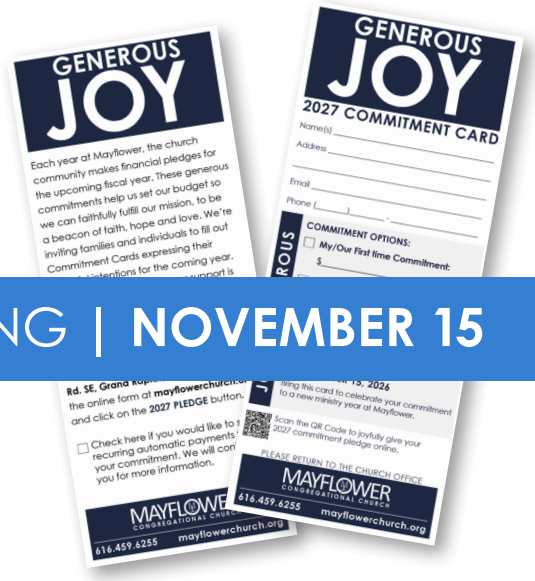
Total Commitments	**$1,049,429**
# of Commitments	**204**

Increased Commitments	**75%**
First Time Commitments	**8%**
Maintained Commitments	**16%**
Decreased Commitments	**1%**

2026 COMMITMENT LEVELS



Scan the QR Code to joyfully give your 2027 commitment pledge online.



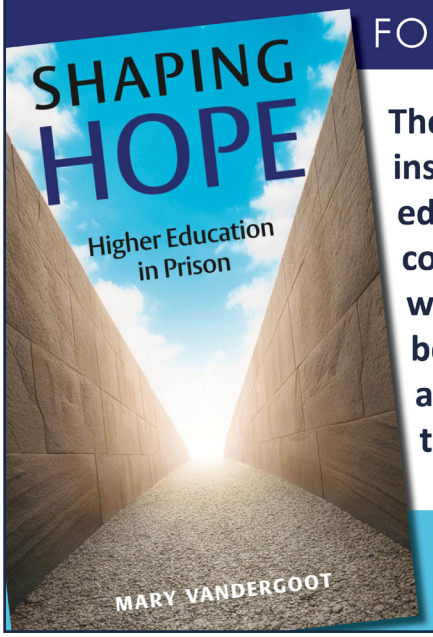
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS COMING | **NOVEMBER 15**

Commitment cards/online pledges can be submitted at any time.

ROBINSON ROAD WRITERS PRESENTS:

BOOK TALK | TODAY | 11:45am

FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP



The public knows little about what goes on inside prisons among those who embrace educational opportunities, for productive communities, and orient themselves toward what is enduring and brings hope. In her book, *Shaping Hope,* VanderGoot shares about those people, and about makes them visible.



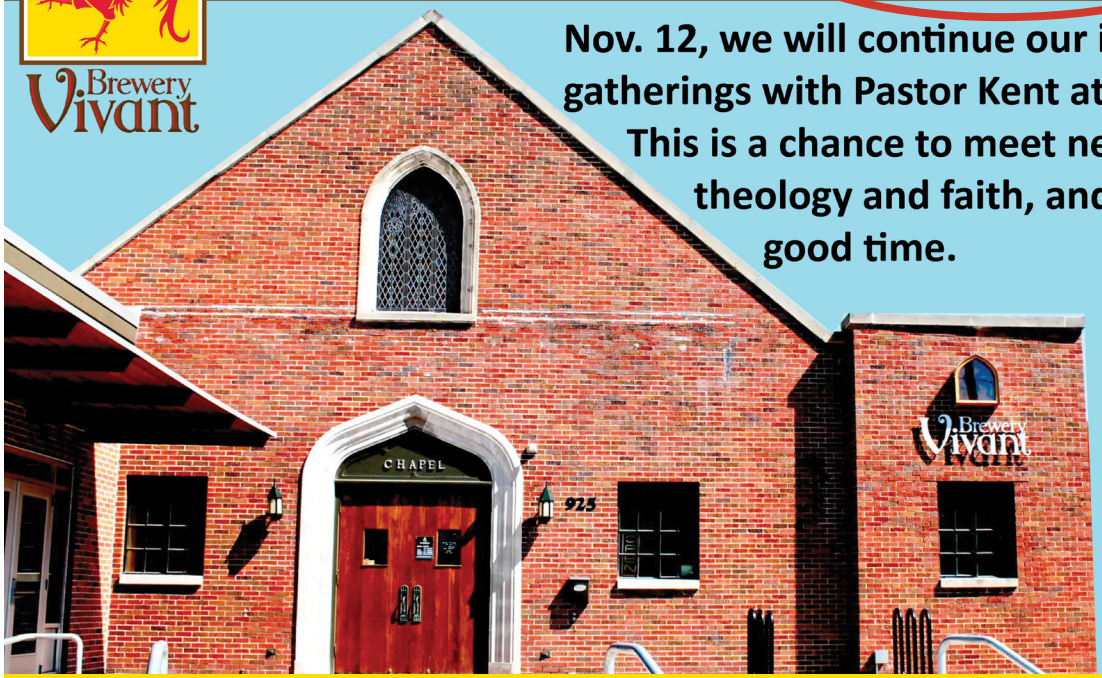
Mary VanderGoot

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH | Robinson Road WRITERS

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

Brewery Vivant

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, November 8
Sunday Worship | 10:30am
MS/HS Handbell Practice | 11:45am
Robinson Road Writers | 11:45am

NOVEMBER

9 Women's Bible Study | 9:30am
Men's Bible Study | 5pm
Women's Bible Study | 5pm
10 Breakfast Club | 6:30am
Faith 101 | 8am
Needlepoint & Stitching | 10am
Outreach Committee Meeting | 12pm
11 Lunch & Give | High school lunch hour
Midweek | 3pm
Mayflower Bells | 6pm
Council Meeting | 6:30pm
*Al-Anon** | 7pm
Chancel Choir | 7:15pm
12 Bible Study | 10am
Bible Study | 5pm
Doubts on Draft | 5pm
13 Men's Bible Study | 7am
15 Commitment Sunday | 10:30am
MS/HS Handbell Practice | 11:45am

PHILIPPIANS BIBLE STUDY

All are invited to join the Thursday @10am Bible Study with leader Rev. Steve Armfield in the youth room as they begin to study the book of Philippians, now through Thanksgiving.



Praises and Prayers

If you would like to receive prayer, have a prayer concern, or have permission to include someone on the weekly published prayer list, please contact Rachel Blair, Congregational Care Coordinator, at care@mayflowerchurch.org. Prayer Cards are also in the pews and collected Sunday morning.

PRAISE FOR THOSE WHO CELEBRATE

We give praise with the recent marriage of **Doug and Chris Congdon**'s son, Logan to Brooklyn Howell on Oct. 10. (10/20)

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

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for **David Blair** as he recovers from a knee replacement on Nov. 2. (11/04)

Jan Bundy fell while climbing Mount Vesuvius on a Italy trip Oct. 13 and broke her nose and both shoulders. She is in the hospital and moving to the Corewell Rehab facility. Please pray as she recovers. (10/27)

Sylvia Graham, daughter or Eric and Rita, is suffering from complications from a recent surgery. We pray for her health, healing and peace for the whole family. (10/21)

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

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

We mourn with **Kathy and Eric Wynsma** on the passing of Kathy's mother, Nella Visser, on Nov. 4. Please pray for the Wynsmas as well as Kathy's dad, Jack, and her sister and brother-in-law, Kris and Mark Kennedy.

PRAY FOR THE WORLD

In our stewardship and gratitude season here at Mayflower, this is a good time for us to pray about stewardship and gratitude all over the world.

Dear God,

This world is yours. You hold it in the palm of your hand, and you are deeply concerned about its care and its people. We acknowledge that the stewardship of the earth is something you tasked us with at the very beginning. We have not always followed this instruction well. We pray now that we will be faithful—in the ways that we are able—to follow you in the care of our planet.

We also acknowledge that when the worlds' resources are not distributed fairly or when natural disasters wreak havoc, there are many who find themselves living in areas that lack the resources necessary for human thriving. May your mercy flow, and may justice prevail. Do not allow us to close our eyes if there is action we can take to be part of your work of restoration and redemption.

As we hold all we have loosely, knowing that all we have comes from you, may you continue to foster in us hearts of gratitude. May we not take for granted all that we have as a church and as individuals. May your Spirit lead us as we continue learning how to follow you with our lives. 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.

EGRHS STUDENTS

JOIN US FOR

LUNCH & GIVE!

NEXT SESSION: NOV. 11 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.

signupgenius.com/go/70A0F4AA9AF29A57-65129434-egrhs#

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

Refugee Education Center | Jersey Mike's Subs

On the 11th, join us for a presentation with Refuge Education Center and a Jersey Mike's lunch. TROLLEY PICK-UP at GERKIN PLAZA at the EGR high school – Parental consent needed (QR ON LEFT). Contact *Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org* for more information.

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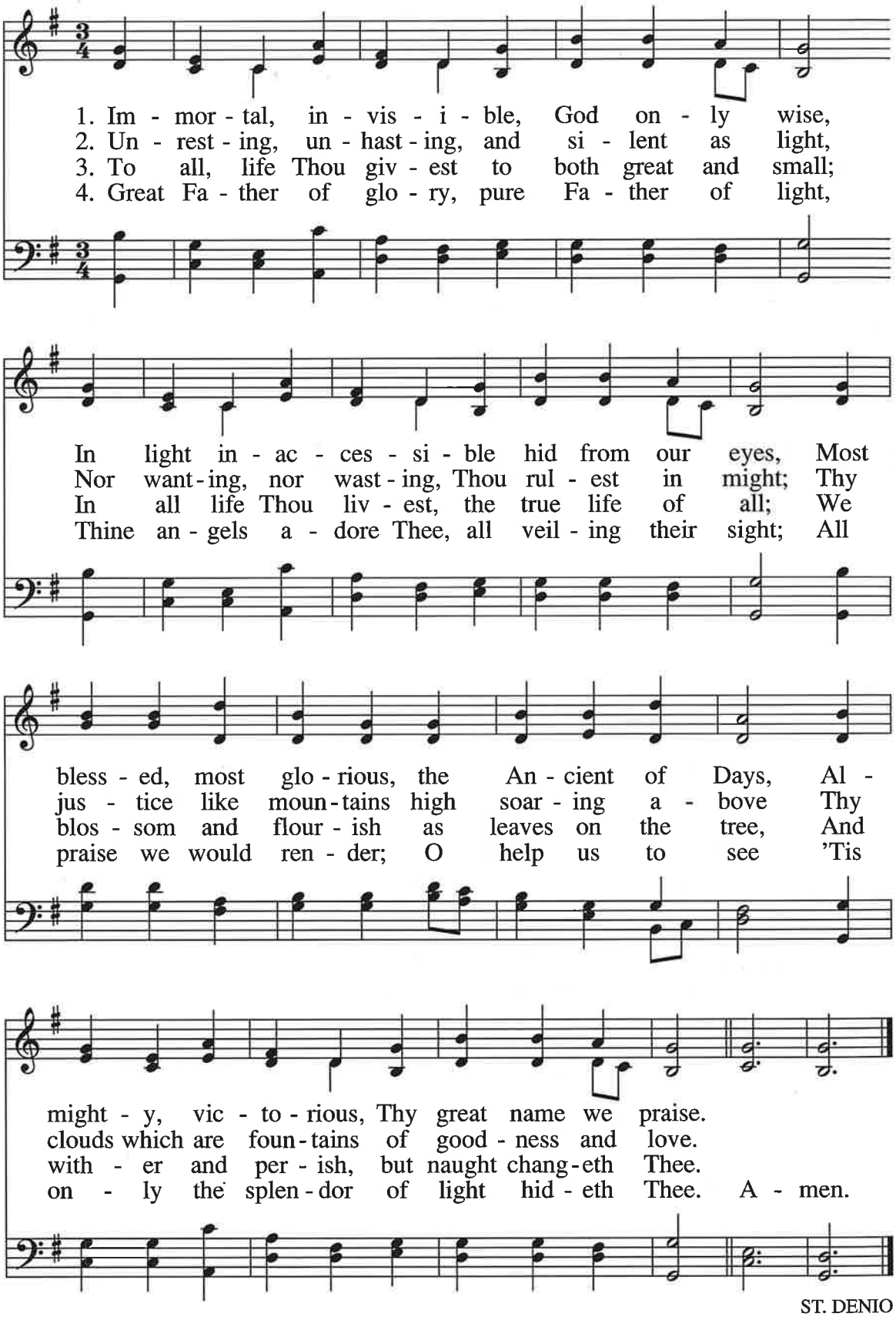
2345 Robinson Rd SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506 | 616-459-6255 | MayflowerChurch.org

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.

37 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Welsh Hymn
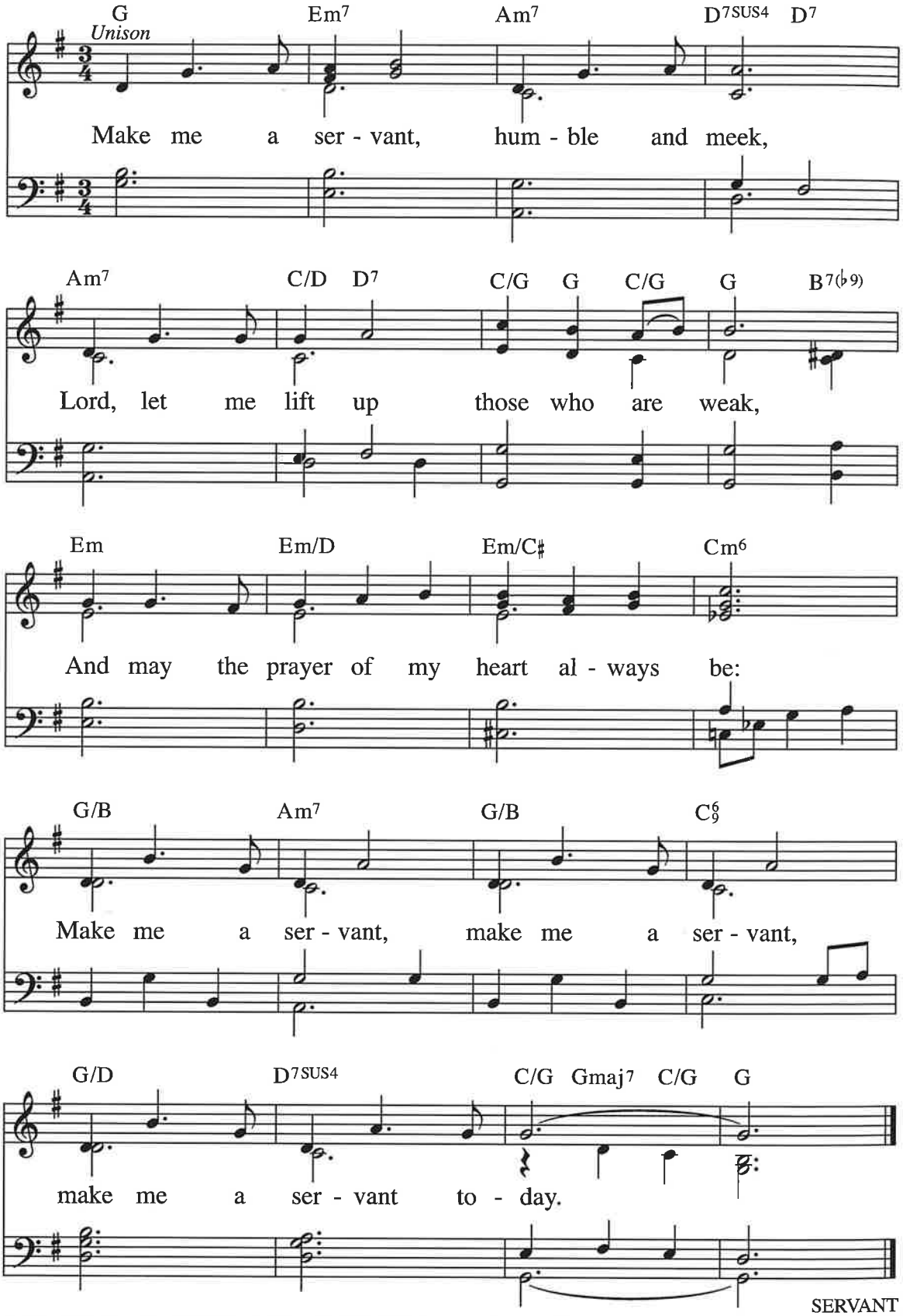


ST. DENIO
11.11.11.11

445 Make Me a Servant

Kelly Willard, 1956–

Kelly Willard, 1956–
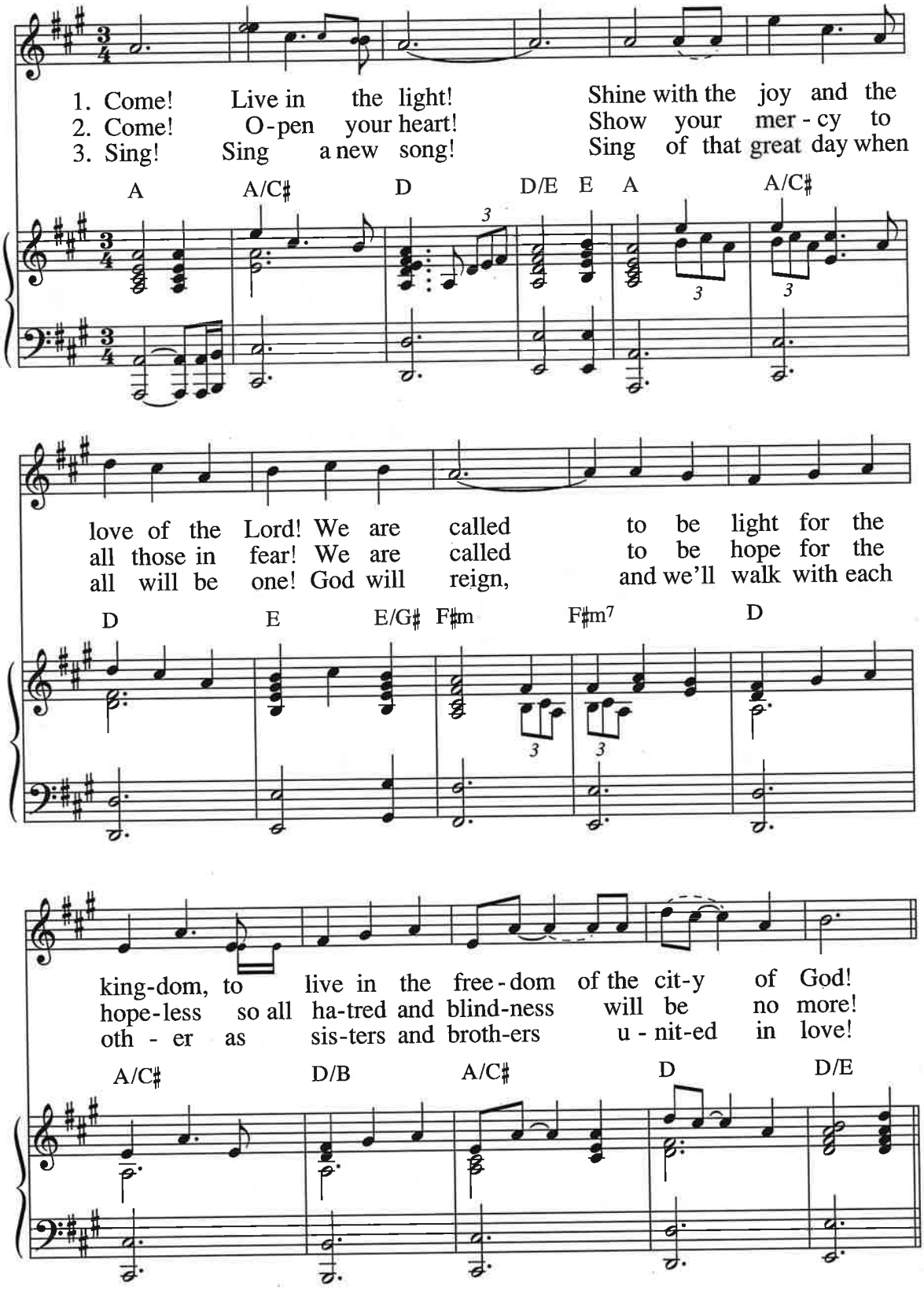


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SERVANT
Irregular

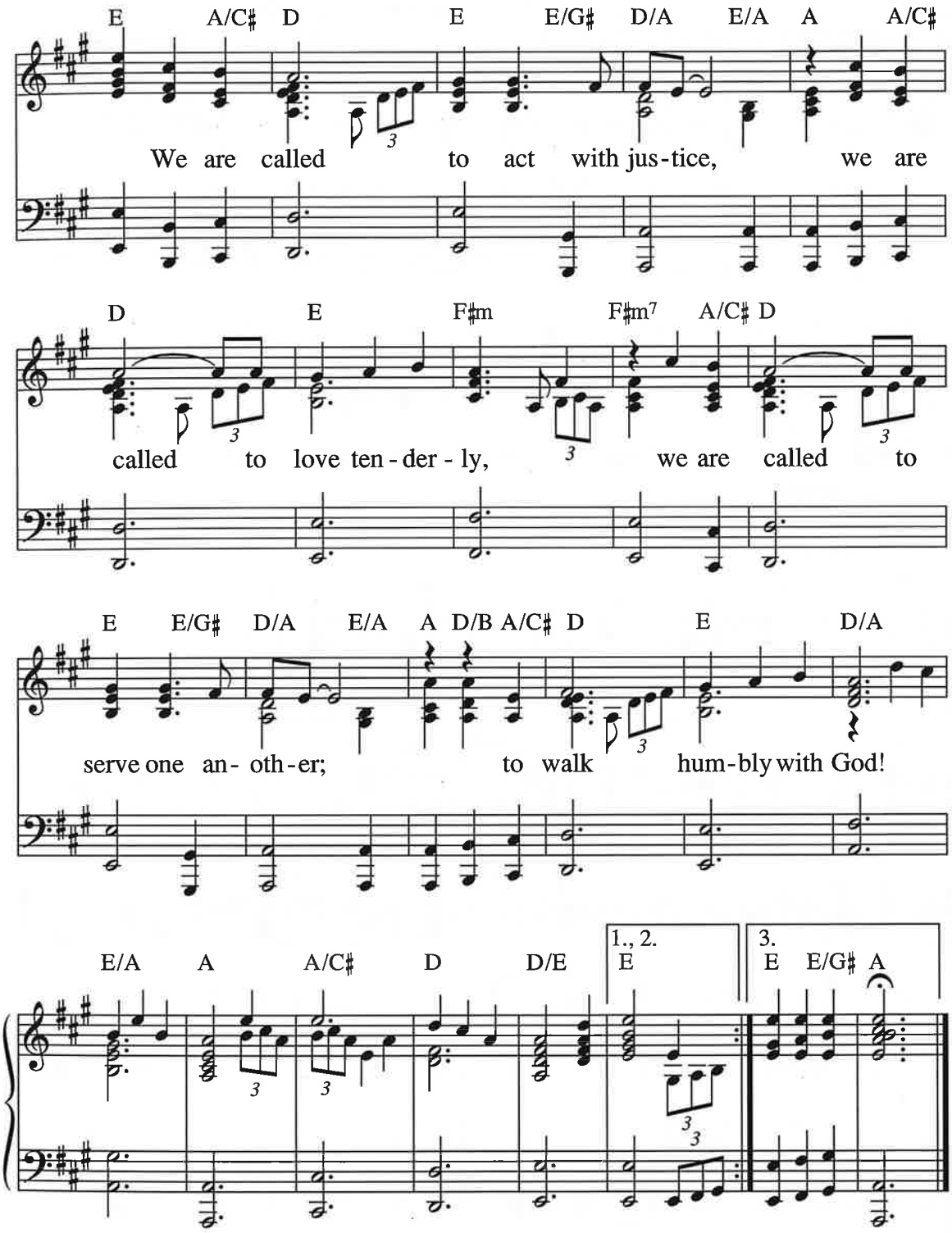
307 We Are Called

Micah 6:8
David Haas, 1957–

David Haas, 1957–



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E A/C♯ D E E/G♯ D/A E/A A A/C♯
We are called to act with jus-tice, we are
D E F♯m F♯m7 A/C♯ D
called to love ten-der-ly, we are called to
E E/G♯ D/A E/A A D/B A/C♯ D E D/A
serve one an-oth-er; to walk hum-bly with God!
E/A A A/C♯ D D/E
1., 2. E
3. E E/G♯ A