MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

GRATITUDE SUNDAY **NOVEMBER 22, 2026**

MEDITATION

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; Come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. -Psalm 100

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Nun danket alle Gott (Now thank we all our God)* Dr. Julia Brown
by H. W. Tauscher (1760-1843)

WELCOME & PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Ruth Bell Olsson

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you.
Response: And also with you.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH Rachael Cooley

CALL TO GENEROUS JOY Shari Graham, Moderator

CALL TO WORSHIP John Schneider, Treasurer

Leader: We gather with open hands and grateful hearts.
People: We remember all that has been given to us.
Leader: For what we have received, for those we love, and for the life we share—
People: We give thanks.
Leader: Gratitude turns our eyes from what we lack toward the gifts already among us.
People: Teach us to receive this day as a gift.

PROCSESIONAL HYMN 285 (stand as you are able)
Come, Ye Thankful People, Come ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

Bold text or music score indicates congregational response.

OPENING PRAYER John Schneider

Leader: Dear God, we come before you today overflowing with gratitude. This has been a year of growth and provision, and we acknowledge that this is because you are in our midst. Please be with us now—in our church and in our hearts—as we celebrate all you are, all you have done, and all you will do.

People: We are yours. Amen.

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 *How Can I Give You Thanks?* Children's Choirs

by Mark Patterson

How can I give you thanks, oh, Lord, when you made the stars that shine so bright?
How can I give you thanks, oh, Lord when you gave the heavens light?
Oh, Lord, your works are wonderful; their beauty I can see
And yet I stand here amazed, oh, Lord that you would give such gifts to me.
How can I give you thanks, oh, Lord, when you came to earth from heaven above?
How can I give you thanks, oh, Lord, when you gave the world such love?
If I learn to sing your praise and serve you all my days
I would just begin to thank you for your gift of grace.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rachael Cooley

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:31-46 Sue Stoddard, Council member

PEW BIBLE, PAGE 702

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *Gratitude and Compassion* Rev. Bell Olsson

HYMN 552 (stand as you are able) *We Gather Together* KREMSER

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Concertato on Westminster Abby* Chancel & Children's Choirs

by Henry Purcell, arr. by Larry Visser

Text can be found in hymn #481

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.

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.

HYMN 393 (stand as you are able) *Rejoice, the Lord Is King* DARWALL'S 148TH

BENEDICTION (remain standing) Rev. Bell Olsson

POSTLUDE *Nun danket alle Gott (Now thank we all our God)* Dr. Brown
by Siefrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

All are invited to join us for coffee in the Atrium after the service and to take a loaf of pumpkin bread home to share with your friends and family.

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Mayflower is hiring for the Office Administrator role. Hours for this full time position are Monday through Friday, 8am-3pm. We're looking for a friendly face and voice to represent our church. If you know a qualified person who would fit this description, please reach out to Rachael at 616-706-4351 or *rachael@mayflowerchurch.org*.

ROBINSON ROAD WRITERS PRESENTS:

BOOK TALK | DEC. 6 | 11:45am

FOLLOWING MORNING WORSHIP



Join us in the chapel following morning worship as designer Sarah Sherman Samuel shares her new book *Sarah Sherman Samuel: The Intersection of Art and Design*.

"From my work in interiors to furniture, textiles to art, every chapter reflects the threads that connect these disciplines and the homes and people that bring them to life."



Sarah Sherman Samuel

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH | Robinson Road WRITERS

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

HOLIDAY OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Baxter COMMUNITY CENTER

MARKETPLACE FOOD DRIVE

- canned fruits and vegetables
- bread (loaves)
- canned meat (chicken, tuna, salmon)
- heat & eat canned meals (ravioli, Spaghetti-O's, soup, etc.)
- shelf stable milk (often can be found at Dollar Tree)

Baxter Community's Marketplace Food Drive – as a community, let's fill the shelves of Baxter's Marketplace for 2027! The items listed can be brought to church now through December 24.

COLLECTION BOXES ARE IN THE PORTICO ENTRANCE AND NARTHEX.



Reach out to Rachael Cooley with any questions: Rachael@MayflowerChurch.org

GoGo's RePlay Toys Play it Forward

TOY DRIVE | NOW- DEC. 24

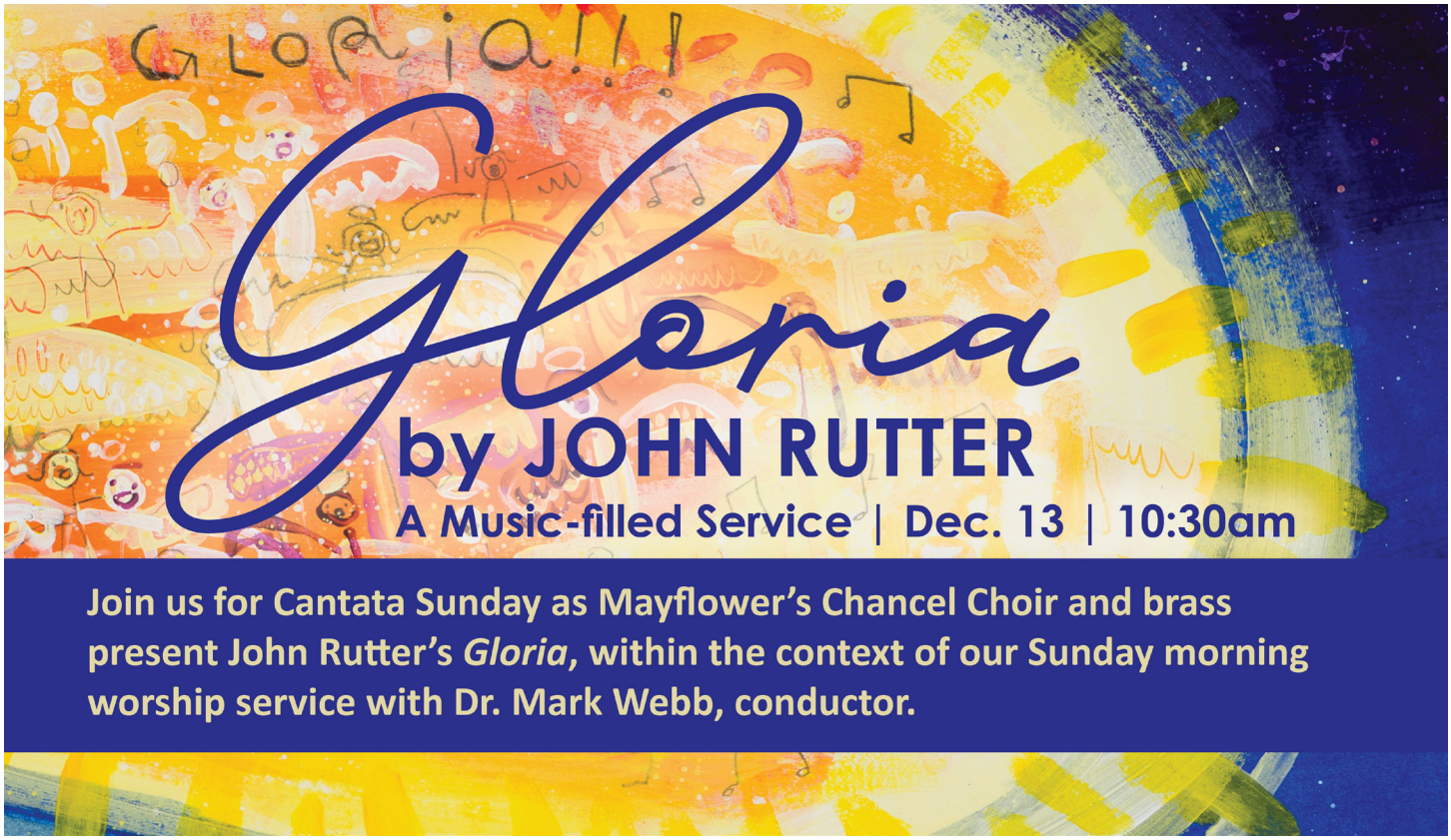
***RePlay Toys* collects & regifts gently used toys to kids throughout the Grand Rapids area.**

Their mission is to "encourage kids to Play It Forward™ by donating gently used toys to children in underserved communities. Every time a child receives a new toy, we ask them to donate one they've outgrown, helping to create a cycle of generosity and joy that benefits children in need as we protect the planet."

This holiday season, look through your toys and bring in those that are no longer played with so that they can find a new home!

TOYS/GAMES/PUZZLES FOR ALL AGES ARE ACCEPTED. PLACE IN THE BOXES AT THE PORTICO ENTRANCE.

RePlay Toys partners with Guiding Light, Girls & Boys Club, Big Brothers/Big Sisters and other local organizations. Find out more at: ***gogosreplaytoys.org***


Gloria!!!
Gloria
by JOHN RUTTER
A Music-filled Service | Dec. 13 | 10:30am
Join us for Cantata Sunday as Mayflower's Chancel Choir and brass present John Rutter's *Gloria*, within the context of our Sunday morning worship service with Dr. Mark Webb, conductor.


REVEAL
JOIN US CHRISTMAS EVE
FAMILY SERVICE @ 4pm
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE @ 10pm
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30am
MAYFLOWER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Calendar

Today, November 22
Gratitude Sunday | 10:30am
MS/HS Handbell Practice | 11:45am

NOVEMBER
23 Women's Bible Study | 9:30am
Men's Bible Study | 5pm
Women's Bible Study | 5pm
24 Breakfast Club | 6:30am
Faith 101 | 8am
Needlepoint & Stitching | 10am
Worship & Music Mtg. | 12pm
Mayflower Mobile Food Pantry | 5pm
25 *Al-Anon** | 7pm
26 Thanksgiving | OFFICE CLOSED
27 OFFICE CLOSED
29 First Sunday in Advent | 10:30am
Fireside Carols in the Parlor | 11:30am

DECEMBER 6 | 5pm

Sing. Learn. Eat.

A Monthly Gathering

All are welcome to our casual Sunday night service where we will dive deeply into the question of hospitality, sing a couple of Christmas carols, and eat together. Discussion will include special guest, Rob Bell.

Monday, December 21 | 7pm

MESSIAH Sing!

Join Mayflower's Chancel Choir; Dr. Mark Webb, conductor; Dr. Julia Brown, organ; and string quartet as we sing Part 1 of Handel's *Messiah*. Bring your score or borrow one at the door. Seasoned singers and shower singers are all welcome! Free and open to all.


Dr. Julia Brown
Music Director and Organist


Dr. Mark Webb
Chancel Choir Director

POINSETTIA SALE | $25

8" Double Stem Red Poinsettias will adorn the sanctuary Dec. 20 through Christmas Eve. Dedicate one for $25 to take home after the Christmas Eve Service.

ORDER BY DECEMBER 7

To order, visit the church office, call 616.459.6255 or email Office@MayflowerChurch.org

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 **Tendero family** as their daughter recently returned home from treating wounded troops in the Iran War. (11/12)

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

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)

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.

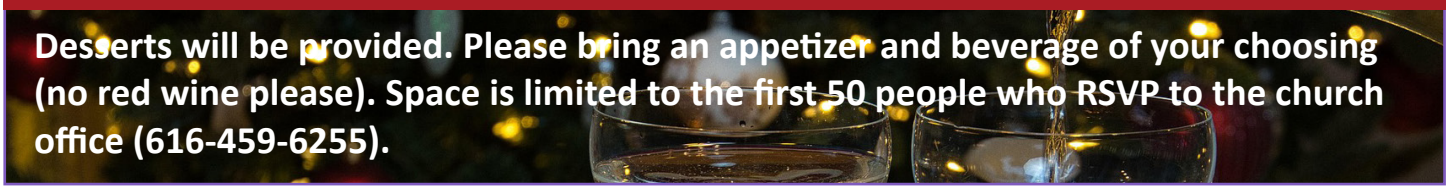
Dear God,

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.

GROWN UPS GATHER & GRAZE AND 69UP CHRISTMAS PARTY
December 11 | 5-7pm | Barbara Hohman's home



Desserts will be provided. Please bring an appetizer and beverage of your choosing (no red wine please). Space is limited to the first 50 people who RSVP to the church office (616-459-6255).

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

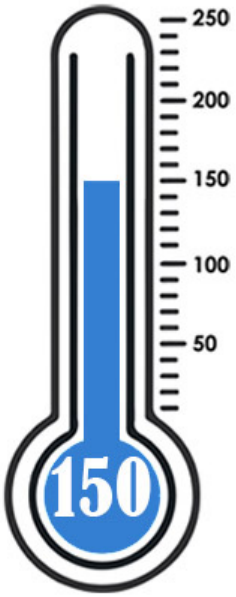
On your phone, simply text the word: GIVE To: 6163446255 (no spaces) and then follow the prompts.

GENEROUS JOY UPDATE

» GOAL for 2027 is 250 COMMITMENT PLEDGES «

GENEROUS JOY

Data as of November 19, 2026



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.

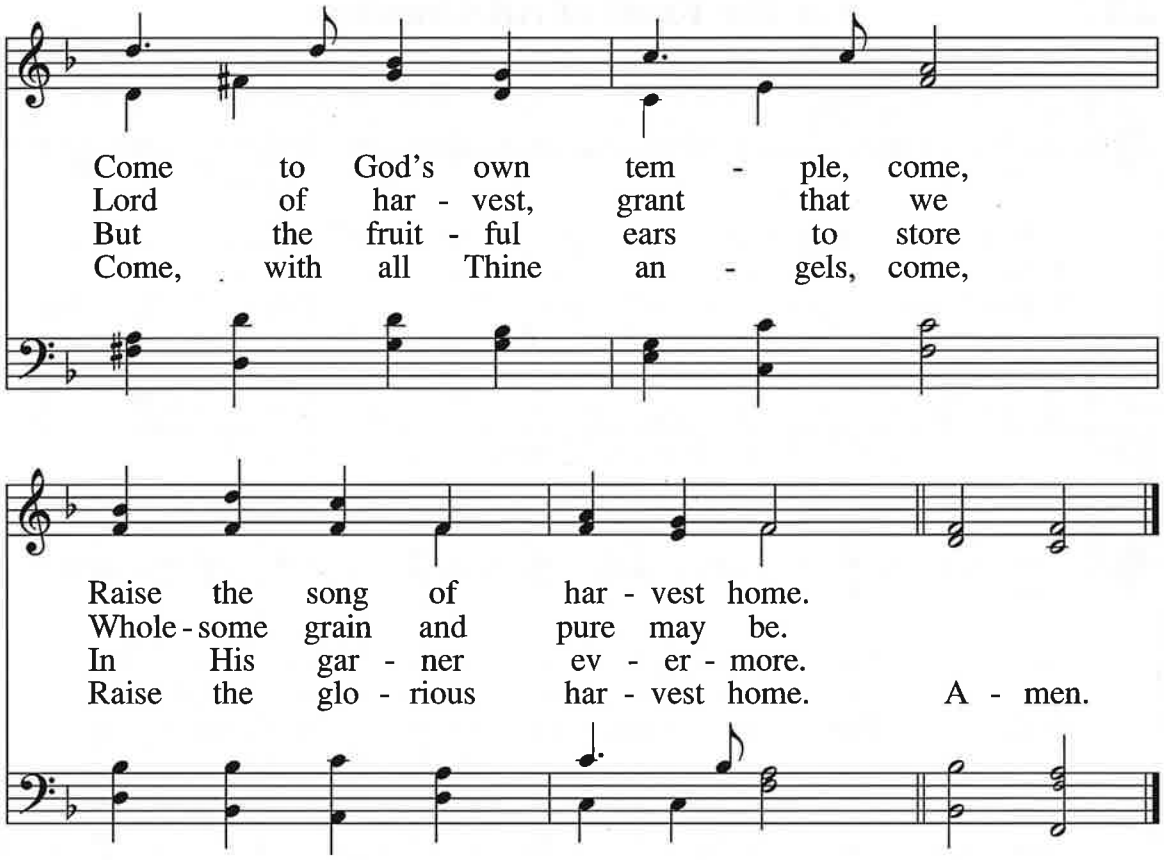
285 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Henry Alford, 1810–1871 — George J. Elvey, 1816–1893



ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR
7.7.7.7 D

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


Come to God's own tem - ple, come,
Lord of har - vest, grant that we
But the fruit - ful ears to store
Come, with all Thine an - gels, come,
Raise the song of har - vest home.
Whole - some grain and pure may be.
In His gar - ner ev - er - more.
Raise the glo - rious har - vest home. A - men.

We Gather Together

552

Netherlands Folk Hymn, 1626
Trans. by Theodore Baker, 1851–1934

Nederlandtsch Gedenck-clanck, 1626
Arr. by Edward Kremser, 1838–1914



KREMSER
12.11.12.11

Gathering

393 Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Charles Wesley, 1707–1788 — John Darwall, 1731–1789



DARWALL'S 148TH
6.6.6.6.8.8