

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, April 7, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Easter
Communion Sunday

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude: "How Firm a Foundation" (Joseph Funk, arr. Cindy Berry)

Opening Sentences

Hymn 7: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Opening Prayer

Anthem: "By the Mark" (Gillian Welch and David Rawlings, arr. Sheldon Curry)

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts

Doxology

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.' But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon: "FAITH THROUGH FEAR"

Observance of Holy Communion

Hymn 47: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Benediction

Benediction Response 571: "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Halle, Halle, Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Greet One Another

Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Rachel Gehres, Barb Fuller, Gail Sawyer, Chancel Choir

COMMUNION RITUAL

CONFESSION

All: Forgiving God, we come to this table knowing that we often fall short of all that you desire for us. Sometimes we fail both as individuals and as a community of faith. We seek your mercy and grace, as we ask you for forgiveness and renewal, that we may better follow you. In the name of your Son, Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Minister: We have this assurance that no matter how far we wander, or how far away we feel from God, we never move outside the boundaries of God's gracious love for us. We are loved, we are forgiven, we are blessed. We celebrate open communion here at Mayflower Church, in the tradition of our Beloved Teacher who welcomed all to the Supper, even those who betrayed him, or ran away in fear.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

THE INVITATION

Minister: We welcome you to this table, whether you are a member of this church, another church, or no church. All you need is faith, or a desire for faith. This is the time when we all acknowledge our past failures, sins, and disappointments, and present ourselves to God, who offers us love, forgiveness, and wholeness. Remember, God accepts us just where we are and who we are at this very moment in our lives.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Minister: On the night when He was betrayed, as Jesus sat at supper with His disciples, He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and said to them, "Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

After supper Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and blessed it, saying, "This is the cup of the new testament in My blood: do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again."

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this memorial of your love, and have granted to us the presence of your Son, even Jesus Christ our Lord, and we ask you to strengthen our faith in you and to increase our love toward one another, through Him, our Redeemer. Amen.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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Joachim Neander, 1650-1680

Trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Stralsund Gesangbuch, 1665

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al-might-y, the King of cre-a-
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won-drous-ly reign -
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros-per thy work and de-fend
 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a-dore

tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and sal-
 eth, Shel-ters thee un-der His wings, yea, so gen-tly sus-
 thee; Sure-ly His good-ness and mer-cy here dai-ly at-
 Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais-es be-

va-tion! All ye who hear, Now to His tem-ple draw
 tain-eth! Hast thou not seen How thy de-sires e'er have
 tend thee. Pon-der a-new What the Al-might-y can
 fore Him! Let the "A-men!" Sound from His peo-ple a-

near; Join me in glad ad-o-ra-tion!
 been Grant-ed in what He or-dain-eth?
 do, If with His love He be-friend thee.
 gain: Glad-ly for aye we a-dore Him! A-men.

THE TRIUNE GOD

47

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Lamentations 3:22-23

William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

As Thou has been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

THE TRIUNE GOD

Great is Thy faith-ful-ness! Great is Thy faith-ful-ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed—

Great is Thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me! A - men.