

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, May 3, 2020, 10:30 a.m.
The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Communion Sunday

Prelude: "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" with "He Leadeth Me" (arr. Cindy Berry)

Welcome and Greeting

Opening Sentence

Hymn 526: "We Come as Guests Invited"

Opening Prayer

Special Music: "Shepherd Me, O God" (Marty Haugen)

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading: John 10:1-10

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

Sermon: "ON BEING A PASTOR"

Observance of Holy Communion

Special Music: "Come Share the Lord" (Brian Jeffery Leech)

Hymn 431: "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

Benediction

Benediction Response 580 (v. 1): "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again"

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 INVITATION

Minister: So, in like manner, 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.

You will be offered both the bread and the wine. We hold the elements until all are served, then we partake together.

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." Ministering to you in His name, I give you this bread. . . Ministering to you in His name, I give you this cup.

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.

1. We come as guests in - vit - ed When Je - sus bids us dine,
 2. We eat and drink, re - ceiv - ing From Christ the grace we need,
 3. One bread is ours for shar - ing, One sin - gle fruit - ful vine,

His friends on earth u - nit - ed To share the bread and wine;
 And in our hearts be - liev - ing On Him by faith we feed;
 Our fel - low-ship de - clar - ing Re - newed in bread and wine:

The bread of life is bro - ken, The wine is free - ly poured
 With won - der and thanks - giv - ing For love that knows no end,
 Re - newed, sus - tained, and giv - en By to - ken, sign, and word,

For us, in sol - emn to - ken Of Christ our dy - ing Lord.
 We find in Je - sus liv - ing Our ev - er - pres - ent Friend.
 The pledge and seal of heav - en, The love of Christ our Lord.

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we
 2. We are Thine; do Thou be - friend us; Be the
 3. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor; Ear - ly
 4. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and

need Thy ten - der care; In Thy pleas - ant pas - tures
 guard - ian of our way; Keep Thy flock, from sin de -
 let us do Thy will; Bless - ed Lord and on - ly
 sin - ful though we be; Thou hast mer - cy to re -

feed us, For our use Thy folds pre - pare.
 fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray.
 Sav - ior, With Thy love our bos - oms fill.
 lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.

Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast
 Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Hear Thy
 Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast
 Bless - ed Je - sus, Bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

bought us, Thine we are; Bless-ed Je - sus, Bless-ed
 chil - dren when they pray; Bless-ed Je - sus, Bless-ed
 loved us, love us still; Bless-ed Je - sus, Bless-ed
 let us turn to Thee; Bless-ed Je - sus, Bless-ed

Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
 Je - sus, Hear Thy chil - dren when they pray.
 Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.
 Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee. A - men.

Jesus, we come to You in praise.

Jesus, rabbi, teacher,
 You came to Your people and sat among us,
 teaching, and feeding, and expressing Your care.
 We are fed—Hallelujah.

Jesus, fisher of men,
 You come to the ordinary places of our lives
 and ask us to follow You.
 We follow in faith—Praise be to God.

Jesus, our friend,
 You challenged us with the parables of the Good Samaritan and the prodigal son,
 and with Your healing of the leper.
 You taught and acted.
 You healed and rested.

In wonder we show our praise through daily acts of love.

Your compassion provided acceptance to the woman at the well.
 Your tender caring cherished the faith of the children held in Your lap.
 Your anger turned over tables when we worshipped the world instead of Your Father.
 Your question stopped our arguing on the road, when we were feeling self-important.
 Your impatience challenged our pious exercises of faith.

Precious Lord, You bring us forgiveness and love.
 Son of God, Messiah of the world, we praise Your name.
 Your grace enfolds us and frees us to follow You.