

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, September 6, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Sunday

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude: "Let Us Break Bread Together" (Spiritual, arr. Cindy Berry)

Opening Sentences: "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether" (Harold W. Friedell)

Gathering Prayer (in unison): Gracious God, you meet us when ever two or three are gathered in your name. As we gather across the internet and this community, we gather with your people everywhere and that number innumerable who gather at your heavenly banquet. Meet us here, holy God, in your Son, Jesus, who invites us to his feast of love, with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever with us. Amen.

Hymn 48: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Epistle Reading: Romans 13:8-12a

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Special Music: "Love 'Til You've Loved It Away" (Sally Rogers)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:15-20

If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Sermon: "WITH US"

Response to the Word: "Kum Ba Ya" (Spiritual)

Observance of Holy Communion

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 292: "The Gift of Love"

Benediction

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

Today's Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Rev. Linda Farmer-Lewis, Jacob Richards, Barb Fuller, Kim and Lorraine Finison

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." 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.

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

John Zundel, 1815-1882

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to ev - 'ry
 3. Come, Al - mighty - y to de - liv - er, Let us all Thy
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less

earth come down, Fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing,
 trou - bled breast; Let us all in Thee in - her - it,
 life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er,
 let us be; Let us see Thy great sal - va - tion

All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown; Je - sus, Thou art
 Let us find Thy prom - ised rest; Take a - way the
 Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee; Changed from glo - ry

all com - pas - sion, Pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;
 love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove,
 in - to glo - ry, Till in heav'n we take our place,

THE TRIUNE GOD



Vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion,
End of faith, as its be - gin - ning,
Pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing,
Till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee,



En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.
Lost in won - der, love, and praise. A - men.

The Gift of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-3
Hal H. Hopson, 1933-

Traditional English Melody
Adapt. by Hal H. Hopson, 1933-

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,
2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,
3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,

And have the gift to all in - spire,
And striv - ing so my love pro - fess,
Our spir - its long to be made whole.

And have not love, my words are vain,
But not be giv'n by love with - in,
Let in - ward love guide ev - 'ry deed;

As sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.
The prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.
By this we wor - ship, and are freed.