

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
**A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP**

Sunday, December 5, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent  
Communion Sunday

***Welcome and Greeting***

***Prelude:*** "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" (Johann Schop, arr. Cindy Berry)

***Opening Sentences***

***Hymn 84:*** "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

***Opening Prayer***

***Lighting of the Advent Candle:*** The Candle of Peace

***Special Music:*** "In the Bleak Midwinter" (Gustav Holst, arr. Craig Courtney)

***Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts***

*Doxology*

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

***Gospel Reading:*** Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." '

***Sermon: "UNLIKELY RECIPIENTS"***

***Observance of Holy Communion***

***Hymn 134:*** "There's a Song in the Air"

***Benediction***

***Benediction Response 579 (v. 1):*** "Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing"

Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace. Let us each, thy love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace: Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

***Greet One Another***

Today's Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Barb and Jerry Fuller,  
Marsha Hacker, Roger Kennedy, Gwen and Terry Tisdale

## 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.

# THE TRIUNE GOD

## 84

## Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Isaiah 40:1-8

Johann Olearius, 1611-1684

Genevan Psalter, 1551

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

1. Com - fort, com - fort, ye my peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus  
2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth In the des - ert  
3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er

saith our God; Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,  
far and near, Bid - ding all men to re - pent - ance  
plac - es plain; Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load. Speak ye to Je -  
Since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
As be - fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

GENEVA 42  
8.7.8.7.7.8.8

Second verse: "Bidding *people* to repentance"

## THE TRIUNE GOD

Tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
Let the val - leys rise to meet Him  
And all flesh shall see the to - ken

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment of chords and single notes. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

And her war - fare now is o - ver.  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
That His word is nev - er bro - ken. A - men.

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

O God of power and might, Creator of light and of darkness, of the earth and the stars, speak anew to Your people gathered to worship You and sing Your praise. Like Israel of old we wait in darkness, anticipating the Light who will dawn upon us and lift us from shadowy gloom into the glowing splendor of Your presence. So, we ask You, speak to us a word of comfort, a word of hope, a word that will keep our anticipation alive as we wait for the Coming One who brings Your creative Word into our very flesh and makes us one with You. Enable us, in turn, to be bringers of comfort to those who long and wait for You, preparing the way of Your kingdom, already present and yet to come. All this we ask in the name of him whom prophets foretold, the Word who speaks comfort and hope, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Rev. Steven A. Peay, Ph.D.

## There's a Song in the Air

Josiah Gilbert Holland, 1819-1881

Karl Pomeroy Harrington, 1861-1953

1. There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
 2. There's a tu - mult of joy O'er the won - der - ful birth,  
 3. In the light of that star Lie the a - ges im - pearled;  
 4. We re - joice in the light, And we ech - o the song

There's a moth - er's deep prayer And a ba - by's low cry!  
 For the vir - gin's sweet boy Is the Lord of the earth.  
 And that song from a - far Has swept o - ver the world.  
 That comes down through the night From the heav - en - ly throng.

And the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,  
 Ay! the star rains its fire while the beau - ti - ful sing,  
 Ev - 'ry hearth is a - flame, and the beau - ti - ful sing  
 Ay! we shout to the love - ly e - van - gel they bring,

For the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!  
 For the man - ger of Beth - le - hem cra - dles a King!  
 In the homes of the na - tions that Je - sus is King!  
 And we greet in His cra - dle our Sav - ior and King!