

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

Sunday, December 3, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent  
Communion Sunday

***Welcome and Greeting***

***Prelude:*** "The Winter Rose" (from The Winter Rose) (Joseph M. Martin)

***Opening Sentences***

***Hymn 81:*** "You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd"

***Opening Prayer***

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

***Anthem:*** "When Will He Come?" (from The Winter Rose) (arr. Joseph M. Martin)

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

*Doxology*

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

***Old Testament Reading:*** Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

***Sermon: "LAMENT: THE HIDDEN GOD"***

***Observance of Holy Communion***

***Hymn 366:*** "Have Thine Own Way, Lord"

***Benediction***

***Benediction Response 84 (v. 2):*** "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

Hark, the voice of one that crieth in the desert far and near, bidding all men to repentance since the kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way! Let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.

***Greet One Another***

Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Barb and Jerry Fuller, Roger Kennedy,  
Chancel Choir, Marsha Hacker, Justin Stephens

## 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

81 You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

French Carol

Harm. by Richard Proulx, 1937-

*Unison*

1. You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep-herd. You, Lord,  
 2. Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, Stripped of  
 3. You, who walk each day be - side us, Sit in  
 4. Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy

are both prince and slave. You, peace-mak - er  
 might up - on the cross, Shin - ing in e -  
 pow - er at God's side. You, who preach a  
 is our cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy Your de -

and sword - bring - er Of the way You  
 ter - nal glo - ry, Beg - gar'd by a  
 way that's nar - row, Have a love that  
 feat and vic - t'ry. Wor - thy still Your

took and gave. You, the ev - er - last - ing  
 sol - dier's toss, You, the ev - er - last - ing  
 reach - es wide. You, the ev - er - last - ing  
 peace and strife. You, the ev - er - last - ing

# THE TRIUNE GOD

in - stant; You, whom we both scorn and crave.  
in - stant; You, who are our gift and cost.  
in - stant; You, who are our pil - grim guide.  
in - stant; You, who are our death and life.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. It features a vocal melody with a long note on 'stant;' followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

Have Thine Own Way, Lord

Jeremiah 18:6

George C. Stebbins, 1846-1945

Adelaide A. Pollard, 1862-1934

1. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
 2. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
 3. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
 4. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!

Thou art the pot - ter, I am the clay!  
 Search me and try me, Sav - ior, to - day!  
 Wound - ed and wea - ry, Help me, I pray!  
 Hold o'er my be - ing Ab - so - lute sway!

Mold me and make me Af - ter Thy will,  
 Wash me just now, Lord, Wash me just now,  
 Pow - er, all pow - er, Sure - ly is Thine!  
 Fill with Thy Spir - it 'Til all shall see

While I am wait - ing, Yield - ed and still.  
 As in Thy pres - ence Hum - bly I bow.  
 Touch me and heal me, Sav - ior di - vine!  
 Christ on - ly, al - ways, Liv - ing in me!