

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, May 7, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Communion Sunday

Welcome and Greeting

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

Opening Sentences

Hymn 455: "Once to Every Man and Nation"

Opening Prayer

Special Music: "Be Thou My Vision" (Traditional Irish Melody, arr. Alice Parker)

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts

Doxology

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

Gospel Reading: Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Sermon: "COURAGE"

Observance of Holy Communion

Hymn 234: "Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me"

Benediction

Benediction Response 580 (v. 3 and 4): "God Be With You Till We Meet Again"

3) God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you, put His arms unfailing round you: God be with you till we meet again. 4) God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you, smite death's threat'ning wave before you: God be with you till we meet again.

Greet One Another

Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Barb and Jerry Fuller, Marsha Hacker, 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.

1. Once to ev - 'ry man and na - tion
 2. By the light of burn - ing mar - tyrs,
 3. Though the cause of e - vil pros - per,

Comes the mo - ment to de - cide,
 Je - sus' bleed - ing feet I track,
 Yet 'tis truth a - lone is strong,

In the strife of truth with false - hood,
 Toil - ing up new Cal - v'ries ev - er
 Truth for - ev - er on the scaf - fold,

For the good or e - vil side;
 With the cross that turns not back;
 Wrong for - ev - er on the throne.

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

Some great cause, God's new mes - si - ah,
 New oc - ca - sions teach new du - ties,
 Yet that scaf - fold sways the fu - ture,

Of - f'ring each the bloom or blight,
 Time makes an - cient the good un - couth;
 And, be - hind the dim un - known,

And the choice goes by for - ev - er
 They must up - ward still and on - ward,
 Stand - eth God with - in the shad - ow

'Twi'x't that dark - ness and that light.
 Who would keep a - breast of truth.
 Keep - ing watch a - bove His own.

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

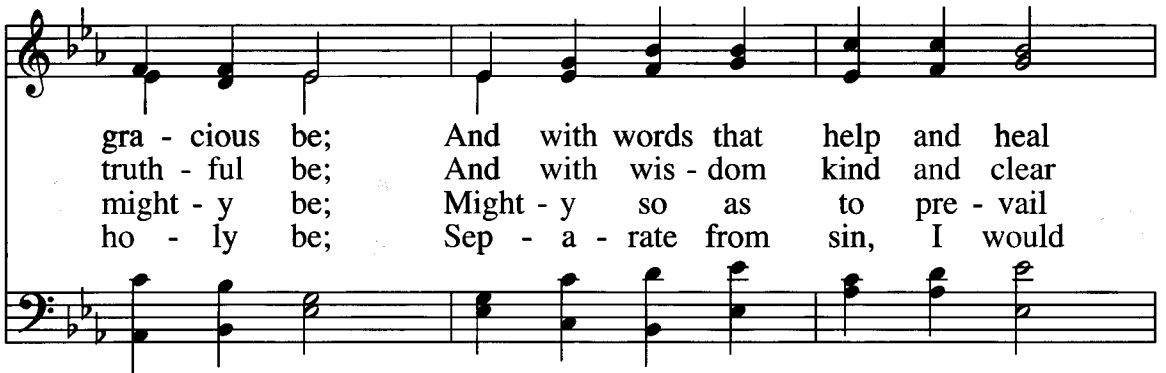
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Thomas T. Lynch, 1818-1871

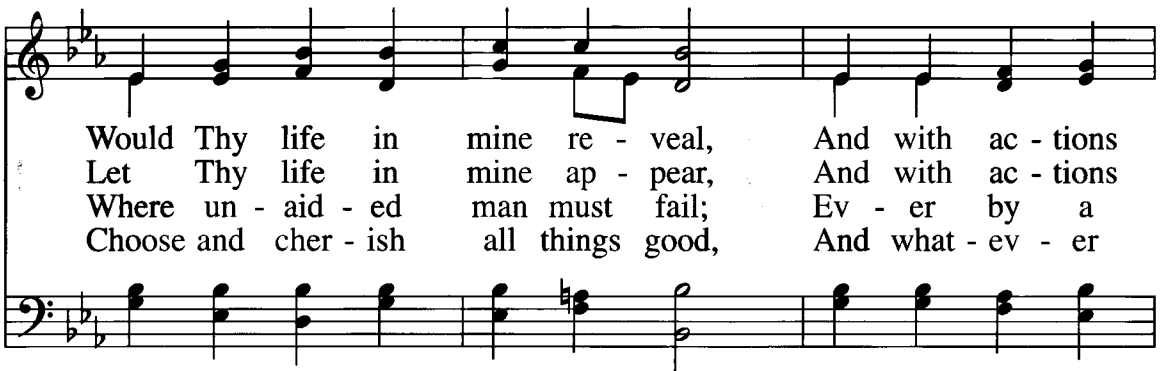
Richard Redhead, 1820-1901



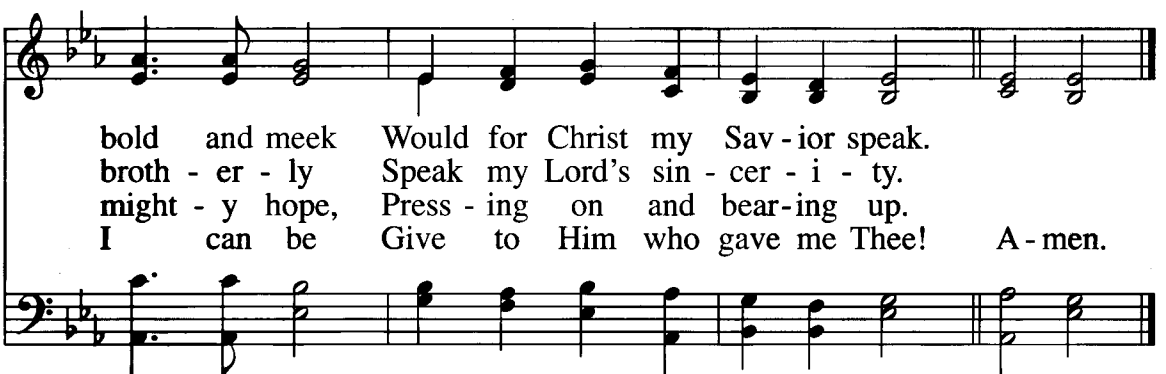
1. Gra - cious Spir - it, dwell with me, I my - self would
 2. Truth - ful Spir - it, dwell with me I my - self would
 3. Might - y Spir - it, dwell with me, I my - self would
 4. Ho - ly Spir - it, dwell with me, I my - self would



gra - cious be; And with words that help and heal
 truth - ful be; And with wis - dom kind and clear
 might - y be; Might - y so as to pre - vail
 ho - ly be; Sep - a - rate from sin, I would



Would Thy life in mine re - veal, And with ac - tions
 Let Thy life in mine ap - pear, And with ac - tions
 Where un - aid - ed man must fail; Ev - er by a
 Choose and cher - ish all things good, And what - ev - er



bold and meek Would for Christ my Sav - ior speak.
 broth - er - ly Speak my Lord's sin - cer - i - ty.
 might - y hope, Press - ing on and bear - ing up.
 I can be Give to Him who gave me Thee! A - men.