MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, September 17, 2023, 10:30 a.m. Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude: "Bridge Over Troubled Water" (Paul Simon)

Opening Sentences

Hymn 307: "We Are Called"

Opening Prayer

Special Presentation: Rev. David Bandfield, Pastor Emeritus

Special Music: "With a Voice of Singing" (Martin Shaw)

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts

Doxology

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

Receiving New Members: Rev. David Bandfield, Betty Briggs, Susan Cady, Jim Kzeski, Mike Kzeski

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Sermon: "HOW MANY TIMES?"

Hymn 334: "Amazing Grace"

Benediction

Benediction Response 153: "Siyahamba / We Are Marching"

1) We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God. 2) We are dancing. . . 3) We are singing. . .

Postlude: "Graceful Ghost Rag" (William Bolcom)

Greet One Another

<u>Participants</u>: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Barb Fuller, Rev. David Bandfield, Roger Kennedy, Chancel Choir, Justin Stephens, Aaron Fuller, Ryan Fuller, Kim Finison

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Minister: Seeking membership in this church, do you accept the religion of love and service that Jesus taught and lived; to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself; to make the spirit of Christ dominant in your relationships, also recognizing that we all are human; we make mistakes and sometimes we need to be forgiven and to offer forgiveness; do you therefore covenant together with all the members and friends of Mayflower Church to prayerfully promote harmony, faithfulness, and unconditional love, accepting a share in its privileges and duties, insofar as you are able, God being our helper?

(Those joining will respond: "I do".)

Mayflower's Response: (The congregation is invited to rise, and read in unison.)

We rejoice with you and joyfully receive you into membership and fellowship. We pledge our Christian love as you have promised us. We humbly pray to God that both you and we may be true to this covenant forever, through Jesus the Christ, Amen.

Mayflower Church Covenant

We are banded together as a Christian church to maintain the worship of God; to proclaim the Gospel of Christ; to develop a sense of our relationship and duty to God and our fellow persons; and to be an inspiration for love, truth, and passion for righteousness and enthusiasm for service. To this end we pledge our loyalty to Christ and covenant with each other to strive to express Christ's spirit in our individual and corporate lives; to live together as Christians and to submit ourselves to the government of this church: working; giving; praying for its increase, its purity, its peace; and seeking in every way to make it a power for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

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We Are Called



GOD'S REVELATION



334

Amazing Grace

John Newton, 1725–1807 St. 6, anonymous Traditional American Melody Carrell and Clayton's Virginia Harmony, 1831 Arr. by Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921

