

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

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

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Communion Sunday

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude: "It Is Well With My Soul" (Philip P. Bliss, arr. Cindy Berry)

Opening Sentences

Hymn 383: "If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee"

Opening Prayer

Special Music: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Thomas O. Chisholm and William M. Runyan)

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts

Doxology

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

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

Sermon: "FROM SOLID ROCK TO STUMBLING BLOCK"

Observance of Holy Communion

Hymn 389: "Be Still, My Soul"

Benediction

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

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.

Greet One Another

Participants: Pastor Mark & DeeAnn McCormick, Barb & Jerry Fuller, Bruce Bonney & Leslie Dejong, Gretta Delaney

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.

If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee

Georg Neumark, 1621-1681

Melody by Georg Neumark, 1621-1681

Trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

1. If thou but suf - fer God to guide thee, And hope in
 2. On - ly be still, and wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful
 3. Sing, pray, and keep His ways un - swerv - ing; So do thine

Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what -
 hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy
 own part faith - ful - ly, And trust His word; though

e'er be - tide thee, And bear thee through the e - vil
 Fa - ther's pleas - ure And all - dis - cern - ing love have
 un - de - serv - ing, Thou yet shalt find it true for

days; Who trusts in God's un - chang - ing love
 sent; Nor doubt our in - most wants are known
 thee; God nev - er yet for - sook at need

"He," "Him," or "His" may be replaced by "God(s)" or "You(r)."

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'God's Covenant People'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed between the two staves.

Buils on the rock that nought can move.
To Him who chose us for His own.
The soul that trust - ed Him in - deed. A - men.

Be Still, My Soul

Katharina von Schlegel, 1697-?

Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957

Trans. by Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side!
 2. Be still, my soul: thy God doth un - der - take
 3. Be still, my soul: the hour is has - t'ning on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain;
 To guide the fu - ture as He has the past;
 When we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord,

Leave to thy God to or - der and pro - vide:
 Thy hope, thy con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake:
 When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

In ev - 'ry change He faith - ful will re - main.
 All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE



Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'n - ly Friend
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.



Gracious God, quiet the tremors of my mind and heart so that I might know of Your ever-present and ever-generous power in my life and in all life.

Amid the challenges, insecurities and equivocations of my world, help me to see Your Spirit at work. Open my mind, open my heart, break open my life so that Your free-flowing and ever-loving presence might pour generously into my daily affairs, and into the lives of all who are hurting this day.

For in Your presence, God, our lives encounter the majesties of Your life. Our anxieties are calmed, our hearts are rested, our thoughts are ordered; for the Dayspring of Your eternal life is ours in Christ Jesus, the One who knows our suffering.

Emboldened with the promise of Your presence, I go forth to reflect Your light in all I encounter, confident that You are there, present and able.

Your peace permeates all there is. And all is well.

Amen.

Rev. Samuel Schaal