

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, December 1, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent
Communion Sunday

Welcome and Greeting - Pastor Mark

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

Opening Sentences - Tom

Hymn 85: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" - DeeAnn et al.

Opening Prayer - Tom

Lighting of the Advent Candles: The Candle of Hope

Anthem: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!" (Eugene Butler) - Barb/DeeAnn/Choir

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts - Pastor Mark

Doxology - DeeAnn

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

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 - Rachel

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Sermon: "SURELY" - Pastor Mark

Observance of Holy Communion - Pastor Mark/Rachel

Hymn 383: "If Thou but Suffer God to Guide Thee" - DeeAnn et al.

Benediction - Pastor Mark

Benediction Response 89 (v. 2): "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" - DeeAnn et al.

Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art: dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Greet One Another - All

Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Barb Fuller, Rachel Gehres, Tom Cornell, 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.

THE TRIUNE GOD

85

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Based on Psalm 24

Thomas Williams', *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

Georg Weissel, 1590-1635

Trans. by Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates;
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart;
3. Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide
4. So come, my Sov - 'reign; en - ter in!
5. O blest the land, the cit - y blest,

Be - hold the King of glo - ry waits!
Make it a tem - ple, set a - part
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, a - bid!
Let new and no - bler life be - gin;
Where Christ the rul - er is con - fest!

The King of kings is draw - ing near;
From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy,
Let me Thy in - ner pres - ence feel;
Thy Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on,
O hap - py hearts and hap - py homes

The Sav - ior of the world is here.
A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
Thy grace and love in me re - veal.
Un - til the glo - rious crown be won.
To whom this King of tri - umph comes! A - men.

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 staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. 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.