

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, January 28, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Reception of New Member

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude: "Steal Away to Jesus" (Spiritual, arr. Patricia Cota)

Opening Sentences

Hymn 294: "God Binds Us With a Mighty Cord"

Opening Prayer

Anthem: "On Eagle's Wings" (from Psalm 91) (Michael Joncas, arr. Mark Hayes)

Receiving New Member: Rachel Gehres

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts

Doxology

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

New Testament Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that 'all of us possess knowledge.' Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that 'no idol in the world really exists', and that 'there is no God but one.' Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. 'Food will not bring us close to God.' We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling-block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Sermon: "WHEN BEING 'RIGHT' IS WRONG"

Hymn 495: "They'll Know We Are Christians"

Benediction

Benediction Response 497 (v. 1): "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Greet One Another

Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Barb Fuller, Mayflower Ringers, Chancel Choir, Rachel Gehres

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

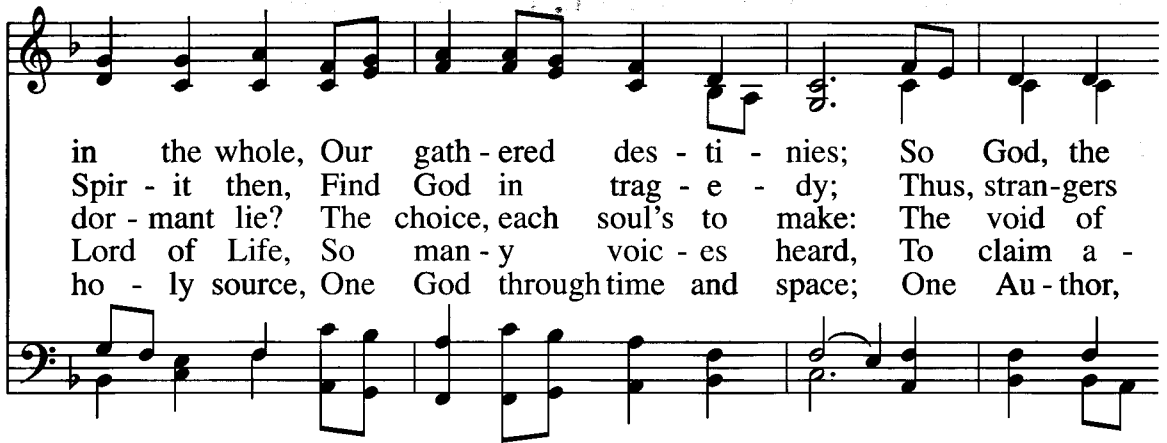
We are banded together as a Christian church to maintain the worship of God; to proclaim the Gospel of Christ; to develop a sense of our relationship and duty to God and our fellow persons; and to be an inspiration for love, truth, and passion for righteousness and enthusiasm for service. To this end 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.

1. God binds us with a might - y cord, We sel - dom
 2. In try - ing times, God's stead - fast light Shines on a
 3. The face of e - vil we per - ceive In des - p'rate
 4. As fol - low - ers of count - less ways, Yet chil - dren
 5. For God main - tains no bor - der lines, To lim - it

feel or see; This tie, with our cre - at - ing Lord, Links
 world in need, And leads all peo - ple to u - nite, With
 deeds and crimes, Lies deep in all hu - man - i - ty: Our
 of one Lord, Di - verse com - mand - ments we o - bey, Re -
 each one's place, But cher - ish - es a grand de - sign, Tran -

all e - ter - nal - ly. Each life, a thread joined
 heal - ing words and deeds. We yearn to feel the
 bur - den through - out time. Will dark seeds bloom or
 spond - ing to God's word. Still praise we all the
 scend - ing na - tion, race. All life comes from this

GOD'S REVELATION



in the whole, Our gath - ered des - ti - nies; So God, the
Spir - it then, Find God in trag - e - dy; Thus, stran - gers
dor - mant lie? The choice, each soul's to make: The void of
Lord of Life, So man - y voic - es heard, To claim a -
ho - ly source, One God through time and space; One Au - thor,



Weav - er, knits our souls In one great tap - es - try.
trans - form in - to friends, In ho - ly u - ni - ty.
night, or mer - cy's light, Where pa - tient - ly God waits.
gain this frag - ile tie That u - ni - fies our world.
who a - lone brings forth Lives drawn in lines of grace.

By Your Holy Spirit, O God, You bind us together as one body, and empower us to carry on the ministry that You enfleshed as Christ. In our differences, and in our moments when we wander away from one another, unite us anew. Give us fresh eyes to see the ways in which You have connected us, rather than the ways we have separated ourselves. We pray also for opportunities to strengthen the bonds between us. Send us out, but send us together, to exercise our ministry, following the directives You give us; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

They'll Know We Are Christians

John 13:35

Peter Scholtes, 1938-

Peter Scholtes, 1938-

Unison Fm Cm

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from

Fm Bbm

one in the Lord, We are one in the
 walk hand in hand, We will walk with each
 work side by side, We will work with each
 whom all things come, And all praise to Christ

Fm

Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we
 oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -
 oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll
 Je - sus, his on - ly Son, And all

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save hu - man's pride:
praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

And they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our

love, Yes, they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.

Holy and eternal God, the commandment to love one another is both old and new, both universal and personal, both emboldening and humbling. We acknowledge that too often we are like fragments from a glass pane that has been shattered on the ground—disconnected, chaotically scattered and sharp-edged. Forgive us, Lord. As we resolve to seek Your will day by day, may Your Spirit bring deep and authentic love among persons and groups, nations and races, genders and generations. By this, may all know that we are Jesus' disciples. Amen.