

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
**A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP**

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Communion Sunday

***Welcome and Greeting***

***Prelude:*** "I Know the Lord's Laid His Hand on Me" (Spiritual, arr. Patricia Cota)

***Opening Sentences***

***Hymn 292:*** "The Gift of Love"

***Opening Prayer***

***Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts***

*Doxology*

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

***Gospel Reading:*** John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

***Sermon: "FRIENDS"***

***Anthem:*** "Meditation for Communion" (Reginald Heber and Jay Althouse)

***Observance of Holy Communion***

***Hymn 488:*** "Flesh of His Flesh"

***Benediction***

***Benediction Response 550 (v. 3):*** "All Are Welcome" - *DeeAnn et al.*

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

***Greet One Another***

Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Barb Fuller, Rachel Gehres, Tom Cornell, Bell Choir, 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 Gift of Love

1 Corinthians 13:1-3  
Hal H. Hopson, 1933-

Traditional English Melody  
Adapt. by Hal H. Hopson, 1933-

1. Though I may speak with brav - est fire,  
2. Though I may give all I pos - sess,  
3. Come, Spir - it, come, our hearts con - trol,

And have the gift to all in - spire,  
And striv - ing so my love pro - fess,  
Our spir - its long to be made whole.

And have not love, my words are vain,  
But not be giv'n by love with - in,  
Let in - ward love guide ev - 'ry deed;

As sound - ing brass, and hope - less gain.  
The prof - it soon turns strange - ly thin.  
By this we wor - ship, and are freed.

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

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Flesh of His Flesh

Michael Card, 1957-

Michael Card, 1957-

Refrain *Unison*  $\frac{6}{8}$  C F C

We are flesh of His flesh, bone of His bone. His

F C Dm<sup>7</sup> G

Spir - it has brought us to - geth - er as one. Though

Am F C

we may be sep-'rate, we're one per-fect whole, for we are His bod-y and

G C G C *Last time*

He is our soul. *Last time*

# GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

Verses C F C

1. We are the bless-ed re- ceiv - ers of His in - ex - haust - i - ble  
 2. For - ev - er we'll have one an - oth - er, be - cause we be - long to the

G GSUS4 G Am F

love. And so it is out of be - liev - ers the  
 Lord. And so we be - long to each oth - er, and

C G G/F C/E G/D D.S.

bod - y of Christ is made of. We are  
 that is a bless - ed re - ward.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, help us to be Christian in deed as well as in name. May our faith in Jesus Christ make a real difference in the way in which we live our lives. May our religion not be merely the performance of empty forms and rituals. Save us from the hypocrisy of worshiping Christ Jesus while at the same time casting aside the very precepts for which He lived and died. May none of us be guilty of praising our Lord and Redeemer while ignoring His challenge, or adoring His words while neglecting their meaning. May we never substitute song for service, praise for performance, adoration for action. But may song and service, praise and performance, and adoration and action go hand in hand in our daily lives, that we may be Your true servants while here on earth. Hear our prayer, for it is in the name of Christ we pray. Amen.