

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, February 9, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany
Communion Sunday

Welcome and Greeting - Pastor Mark

Prelude: "Break Thou the Bread of Life" (William F. Sherwin, arr. Faye Lopez) - DeeAnn
(Arrangement inspired by Maurice Ravel, 1875-1937)

Opening Sentences - Gail

Hymn 50: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" - DeeAnn et al.

Opening Prayer - Gail

Anthem: "I Believe" (Anon. Jewish Poem, Mark A. Miller) - Barb/Marsha/DeeAnn/Choir

Text: I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun, even when, even when it's not shining.

I believe in love, I believe in love, even when, even when I don't feel it.

I believe in God, I believe in God, even when, even when God is silent.

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts - Pastor Mark

Doxology (Hymn 563) - DeeAnn et al.

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

Gospel Reading: John 6:1-37 - Rachel

Some time after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee (that is, the Sea of Tiberias), and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. The Jewish Passover Festival was near. When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, where they got into a boat and set off across the lake for Capernaum. By now it was dark, and Jesus had not yet joined them. A strong wind was blowing and the waters grew rough. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water; and they were frightened. But he said to them, "It is I; don't be afraid." Then they were

willing to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the shore where they were heading. The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." So they asked him, "What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "always give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

Sermon: "I AM: THE BREAD OF LIFE" - Bruce

Solo: "Christ Be Magnified" (Cory Asbury) - Leslie/DeeAnn

Text: Were creation suddenly articulate with a thousand tongues to lift one cry,
Then from North to South and East to West we'd hear Christ be magnified.

Were the whole Earth echoing His eminence His name would burst from sea and sky
From rivers to the mountain tops we'd hear Christ be magnified.

Oh! Christ be magnified, let His praise arise. Christ be magnified in me.
Oh! Christ be magnified from the altar of my life. Christ be magnified in me.

When every creature finds its inmost melody and every human heart its native cry,
Oh then in one enraptured hymn of praise, we'll sing Christ be magnified.

Observance of Holy Communion - Pastor Mark/Bruce/Rachel

Hymn 531: "You Satisfy the Hungry Heart" - DeeAnn et al.

Benediction - Pastor Mark

Benediction Response 50 (v. 6): "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" - DeeAnn et al.

And so through all the length of days Thy goodness faileth never; Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise within
Thy house forever.

Greet One Another - All

Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Bruce and Leslie Bonney,
Barb Fuller, Gail Sawyer, Rachel Gehres, Chancel Choir, Marsha Hacker

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

50

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Psalm 23

Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877

Ancient Irish Melody

1. The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness
2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed
3. Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, With Thee, dear
5. Thou spread a ta - ble in my sight, Thy unc - tion
6. And so through all the length of days Thy good - ness

fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if I am
soul He lead - eth, And where the ver - dant pas - tures
love He sought me, And on His shoul - der gen - tly
Lord, be - side me: Thy rod and staff my com - fort
grace be - stow - eth, And O what trans - port of de -
fail - eth nev - er; Good Shep - herd, may I sing Thy

His, And He is mine for - ev - er.
grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
laid, And home re - joic - ing brought me.
still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.
light From Thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!
praise With - in Thy house for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain *Unison*

You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart With

gift of fin - est wheat; Come give to us, O

sav - ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

Verses *Harmony*

1. As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They
 2. With joy - ful lips we sing to You Our
 3. Is not the cup we bless and share The
 4. The mys - t'ry of Your pres - ence, Lord, No
 5. You give Your - self to us, O Lord; Then

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

know and heed his voice; So when You call your
 praise and grat - i - tude, That You should count us
 blood of Christ out-poured? Do not one cup, one
 mor - tal tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
 self - less let us be, To serve each oth - er

D.C.

fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - jice.
 wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n-ly food.
 loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in Your name In truth and char - i - ty.

Lord, it's just me.

I know that You are the maker of all that is seen and all that is unseen.
 I know that You were before time began and will be after time has ended.

But Lord, today it is just me, and I thank You for making me.

I am satisfied with me.

I thank You that I stand here as part of Your community today.

I thank You for my steadfast sisters and brothers here.

Some of us are old and gray, and some of us are young,
 and some of us are men and some are women,

and we come in all shapes and sizes, and our skin comes in all shades and colors,
 and some of us like the worship loud and fast, and some of us like it slow and quiet,
 and some of us like to jump and dance, and some of us like to sit in serene reflection,
 and some of us like to clap, and others of us can't keep a beat,

and some of us can sing solos that rise to heaven's gate,
 and some of us can mow the church's yard just right,
 and some of us can make perfect cookies for the kids,
 and some of us nurture disciples and some of us teach,

and some of us don't know what we are good at yet but we are trying.

We are satisfied to be Your people, called by Your name.

You are our Bread of Life; You are our Cup of Celebration.

We savor these times when we gather as this community.

We are satisfied because You have satisfied us.

Help us to satisfy Your hopes and dreams for us.

Amen, Amen, and Amen.