

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, October 4, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
World-wide Communion Sunday

Welcome and Greeting - Pastor Mark

Prelude: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (William M. Runyan) - DeeAnn

Words of Invitation - Gail

Hymn 304: "Lift Every Voice and Sing" - DeeAnn et al.

Gathering Prayer - Gail

Anthem: "In This Very Room" (Ron and Carol Harris) - Barb/DeeAnn/Choir

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: Matthew 21:33-46 - Pastor Margery

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Sermon: "MATTHEW'S DARK SIDE" - Pastor Mark

Hymn 529: "Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken" - DeeAnn et al.

Observance of Holy Communion (see insert) - Pastor Mark, Pastor Margery

Benediction - Pastor Mark

Choral Response: "May the Road Rise to Meet You" (Charles Kirby) - Barb/DeeAnn/Choir

Greet One Another - All

Participants: Pastor Mark & DeeAnn McCormick, Pastor Margery Briggs, Barbara Fuller, Gail Sawyer, Chancel Choir

Mayflower Church Covenant

We are a Christian church on a journey of worship, sacrament, fellowship, and service to God and our neighbors, both within our community and beyond. As God has made covenant with us, we covenant to love, care, and support one another, and to be prayerfully present with each other as we navigate the challenges of life. We celebrate diversity with the unique perspectives, backgrounds, and gifts each individual brings to our community. We seek to provide a safe space for questions, doubts, and exploration, encouraging lifelong quests of learning, growing, and deepening our understanding of scripture and the love of God. We pursue open and honest communication with respect for personal conscience. We commit ourselves to be faithful stewards of our time, talents, and treasures, to further the work of God's kingdom on earth. We affirm this covenant with open hearts and minds, trusting in the grace of God and the love of Christ.

COMMUNION RITUAL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of grace and mercy, we confess that we haven't loved you with our whole hearts. We fall short of what you desire for us, as individuals caught up in selfishness and fear, and as a community of faith that sometimes forgets your call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Forgive us, O God. Lift us from despair to hope, from division to unity, and from apathy to love. Renew us by your Spirit, that we may walk in your ways and find joy in your will. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Minister: Hear the good news: no matter how far we wander, we cannot outrun the reach of God's grace. In Christ, we are forgiven, embraced, and made whole. At this table, we remember that Jesus welcomed all—the one who betrayed him, the ones who fled in fear, and all who longed for hope and belonging. We come, not because we are perfect, but because we are deeply loved.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Minister: It is right that we give you thanks, O God. You shaped us in your image and breathed life into us. Even when we turned away, your love never let us go. Through prophets, teachers, and covenant, you've kept calling us home. And so, with all creation, we join the unending hymn:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Minister: Friends, this is not my table, or the church's table. This is Christ's table, open to all who desire to know God's love. You need not be a member of any church. Bring only your hunger, your hope, your longing. Here, we acknowledge our sins, our failures, and our disappointments. Here, we present ourselves to God—who meets us as we are, loves us where we are, and draws us toward wholeness. So come, for all is ready.

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Minister: On the night when he was handed over, Jesus gathered with his friends around a common table. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant—my very life, poured out in love for you. Whenever you drink it, remember me." And so, when we eat this bread and drink this cup, we remember the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, and the love that will never let us go.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: Thank you, God, for this sacred meal where you have shared yourself with us. Here we are renewed and reminded that your love is stronger than fear, your hope is deeper than despair, and Christ lives within us always. Send us out strengthened in faith and love, ready to serve and build your Beloved Community, until all are fed, welcomed, and free. Amen.

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1871–1938

John Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

1. Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing, Till earth and heav - en
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning
 3. God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent

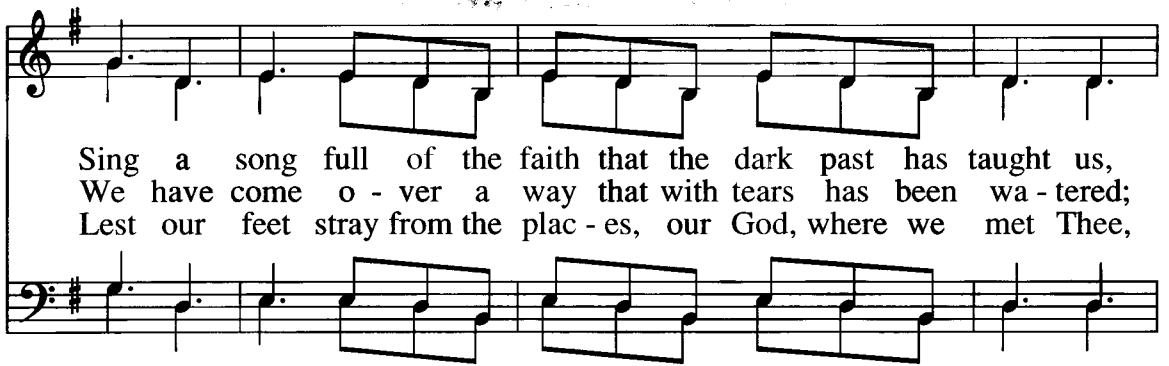
ring, Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er -
 rod, Felt in the days when hope un - born had
 tears, Thou who hast brought us thus far on the

ty; Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning
 died; Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry
 way; Thou who hast by Thy might, Led us in - to the

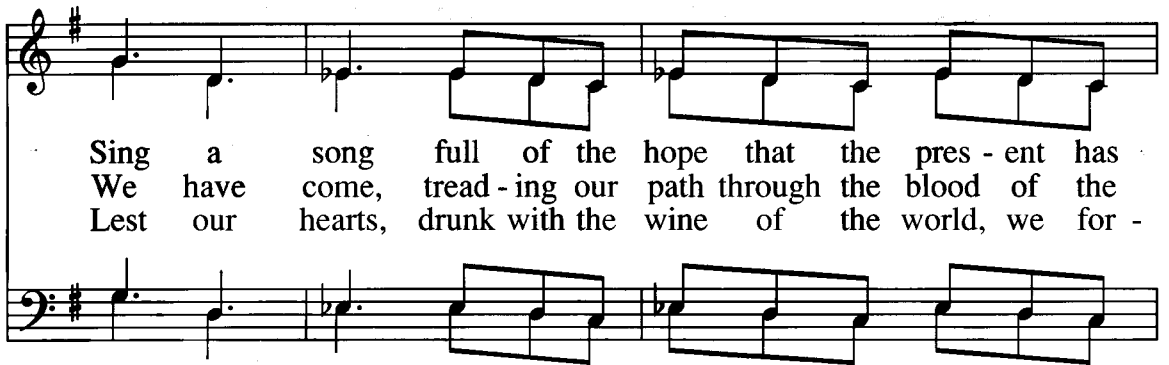
skies, Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 feet Come to the place for which our peo - ple sighed?
 light, Keep us for ev - er in the path, we pray.

LIFT EVERY VOICE
 6.6.10.6.6.10.14.14.6.6.10

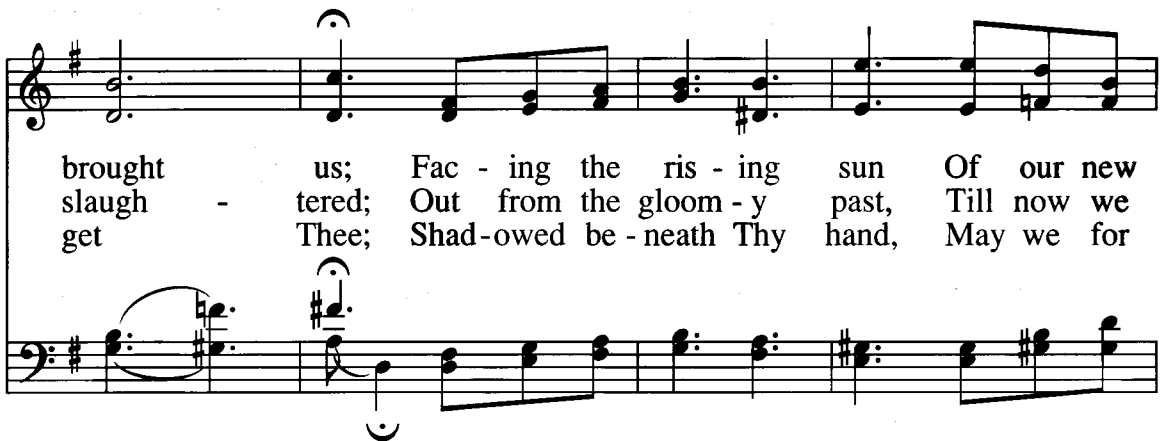
GOD'S REVELATION



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met Thee,



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we for -



brought us; Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new
slaugh - tered; Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we
get Thee; Shad - owed be - neath Thy hand, May we for



day be - gun, Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
stand at last Where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.
ev - er stand, True to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Bread of the world, in mer - cy bro - ken, Wine of the

soul, in mer - cy shed, By whom the words of life were

spo - ken, And in whose death our sins are dead:

Look on the heart by sor - row bro - ken, Look on the

tears by sin - ners shed, And be Thy feast to us the

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

to - ken That by Thy grace our souls are fed. A-men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. Both staves are in the key of D major, indicated by two sharps (F# and C#). The treble staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The bass staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of two sharps. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music ends with a double bar line.