

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, September 6, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Communion Sunday

Welcome and Greeting - Lorraine

Prelude: "Amazing Grace" (from Virginia Harmony, arr. Jack Schrader) - Barb

Words of Invitation - Michael

Hymn 441: "Awake, Awake to Love and Work" - Barb et al.

Gathering Prayer - Michael

Special Music: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" (MORECAMBE, arr. Larry Sue) - Lorraine/Shannon

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts - Pastor Margery
Doxology (Hymn 563) - Barb et al.

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

Old Testament Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-12 - Lorraine

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live.

Sermon: "MANAGING LIFE'S TRANSITIONS" - Pastor Margery

Hymn 520: "According to Thy Gracious Word" - Barb et al.

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

Benediction - Pastor Margery

Benediction Response 526 (v. 3): "We Come As Guests Invited" - Barb et al.

One bread is ours for sharing, one single fruitful vine, our fellowship declaring renewed in bread and wine: renewed, sustained, and given by token, sign and word, the pledge and seal of heaven, the love of Christ our Lord.

Greet One Another - All

Participants: Pastor Margery Briggs, Barbara Fuller, Michael Judd, Lorraine Finison, Shannon Quinn

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

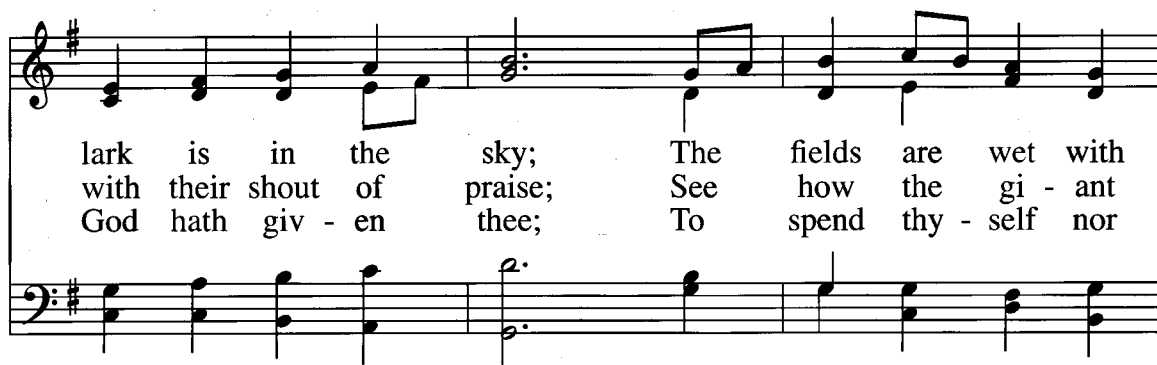
Minister: On the night when he was handed over, Jesus gathered with his friends around a common table. He took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup, saying: "This cup is 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.



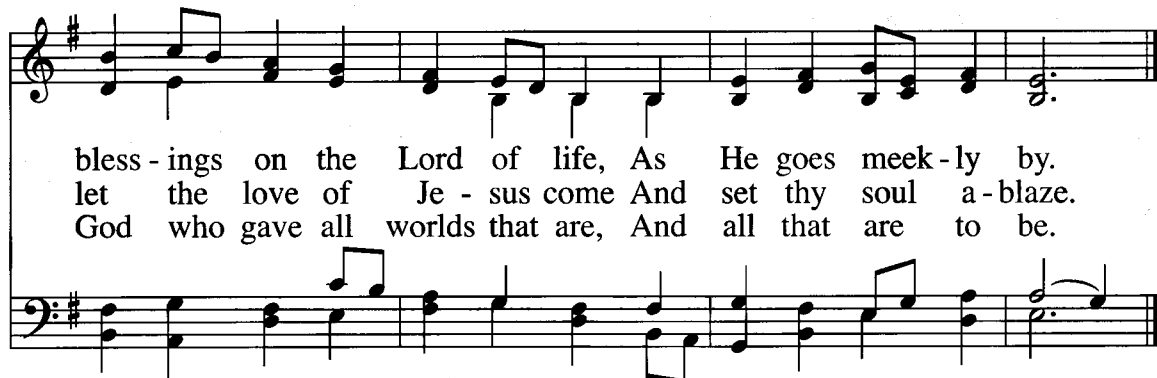
1. A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The
 2. Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, Shout
 3. To give and give, and give a - gain, What



lark is in the sky; The fields are wet with
 with their shout of praise; See how the gi - ant
 God hath giv - en thee; To spend thy - self nor



dia - mond dew; The worlds a - wake to cry Their
 sun soars up, Great lord of years and days! So
 count the cost; To serve right glo - rious - ly The



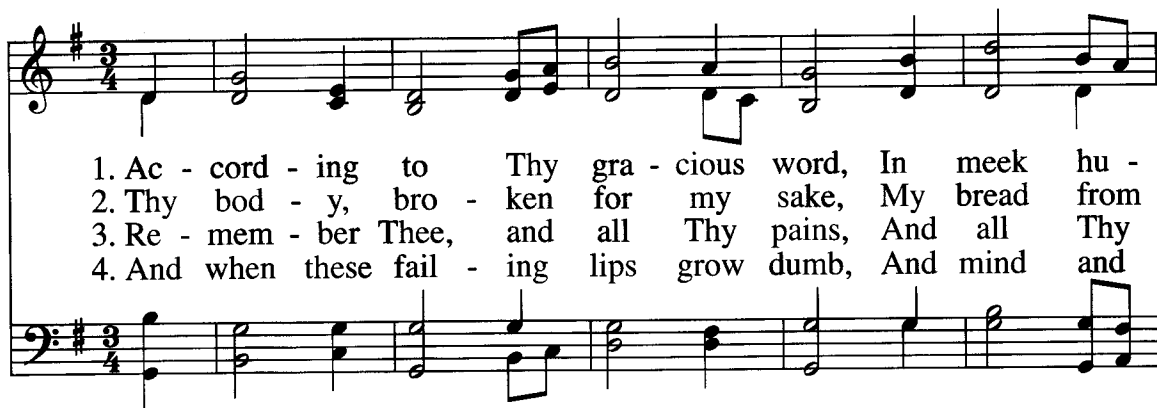
bles - sings on the Lord of life, As He goes meek - ly by.
 let the love of Je - sus come And set thy soul a - blaze.
 God who gave all worlds that are, And all that are to be.

According to Thy Gracious Word

520

James Montgomery, 1771-1854

Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824



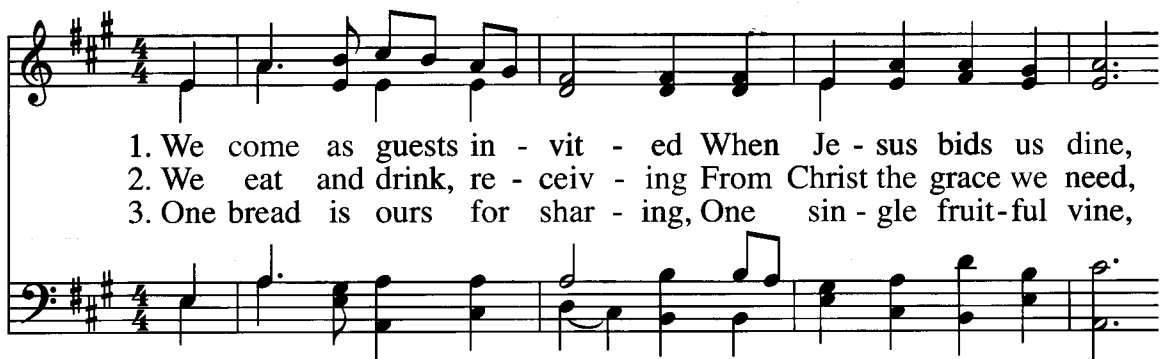
1. Ac - cord - ing to Thy gra - cious word, In meek hu -
 2. Thy bod - y, bro - ken for my sake, My bread from
 3. Re - mem - ber Thee, and all Thy pains, And all Thy
 4. And when these fail - ing lips grow dumb, And mind and



mil - i - ty, This will I do, my dy - ing
 heav'n shall be; Thy tes - ta - men - tal cup I
 love to me; Yea, while a breath, a pulse re -
 mem - 'ry flee, When Thou shalt in Thy king - dom



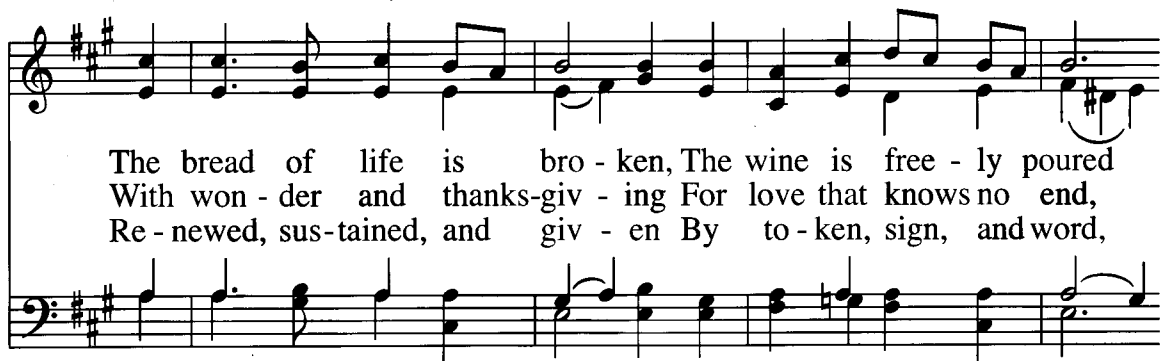
Lord, I will re - mem - ber Thee.
 take, And thus re - mem - ber Thee:
 mains, Will I re - mem - ber Thee.
 come, Je - sus, re - mem - ber me. A - men.



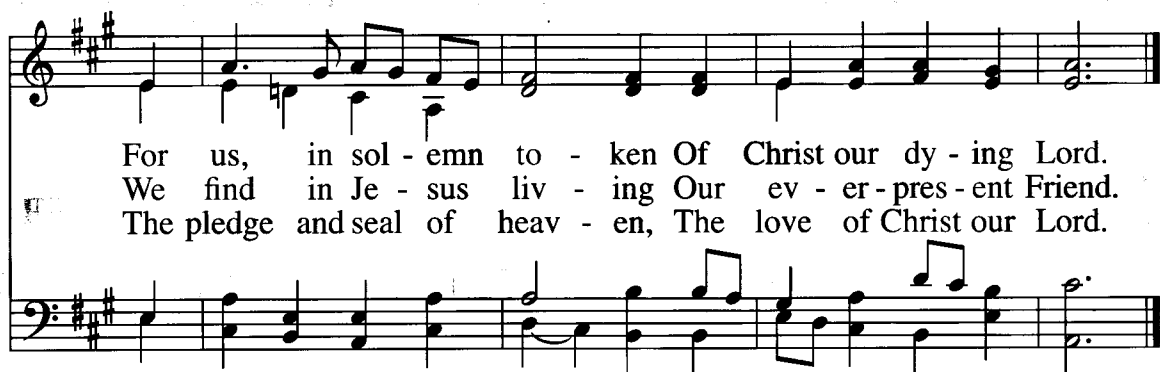
1. We come as guests in - vit - ed When Je - sus bids us dine,
 2. We eat and drink, re - ceiv - ing From Christ the grace we need,
 3. One bread is ours for shar - ing, One sin - gle fruit-ful vine,



His friends on earth u - nit - ed To share the bread and wine;
 And in our hearts be - liev - ing On Him by faith we feed;
 Our fel - low-ship de - clar - ing Re - newed in bread and wine:



The bread of life is bro - ken, The wine is free - ly poured
 With won - der and thanks-giv - ing For love that knows no end,
 Re - newed, sus-tained, and giv - en By to - ken, sign, and word,



For us, in sol - emn to - ken Of Christ our dy - ing Lord.
 We find in Je - sus liv - ing Our ev - er-pres - ent Friend.
 The pledge and seal of heav - en, The love of Christ our Lord.