

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, September 4, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Communion Sunday

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude: "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" (William Moore, arr. Cindy Berry)

Opening Sentences

Hymn 43: "How Like a Gentle Spirit"

Opening Prayer

Special Music: "Blessed Is the Man" (Psalm 1) (Douglas Wagner)

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts

Doxology (Hymn 563)

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

New Testament Reading: Philemon 1:1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but as more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Sermon: "ON THE BASIS OF LOVE"

Observance of Holy Communion

Hymn 482: "We Would Be Building"

Benediction

Benediction Response Hymn 497 (v. 3): "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear; and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

Greet One Another

Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Barb and Jerry Fuller

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.

How Like a Gentle Spirit

43

C. Eric Lincoln, 1924–2000

Alfred Morton Smith, 1879–1971

Unison

1. How like a gen - tle spir - it deep with - in God
 2. Let God be God wher - ev - er life may be; Let
 3. God like a moth - er ea - gle hov - ers near On
 4. When in our vain pre - ten - sions we con - spire To
 5. In all our fret - ful claims of sex and race The

reins our fer - vent pas - sions day by day, And
 ev - 'ry tongue bear wit - ness to the call; All
 might - y wings of pow - er man - i - fest; God
 shape God's im - age as we see our own, Hark
 u - ni - ver - sal love of God shines through, For

gives us strength to chal - lenge and to win De -
 hu - man - kind is one by God's de - cree; Let
 like a gen - tle shep - herd stills our fear, And
 to the voice a - bove our base de - sire; God
 God is love tran - scend - ing style and place And

spite the per - ils of our cho - sen way.
 God be God, let God be God for all.
 com - forts us a - gainst a peace - ful breast.
 is the sculp - tor, we the bro - ken stone.
 all the i - dle op - tions we pur - sue.

We Would Be Building

Purd Eugene Deitz, 1897-1987

Jean Sibelius, 1865-1957

1. We would be build - ing; tem - ples still un - done
 2. Teach us to build; up - on the sol - id rock
 3. O keep us build - ing, Mas - ter; may our hands

O'er crum - bling walls their cross - es scarce - ly lift,
 We set the dream that hard - ens in - to deed,
 Ne'er fal - ter when the dream is in our hearts,

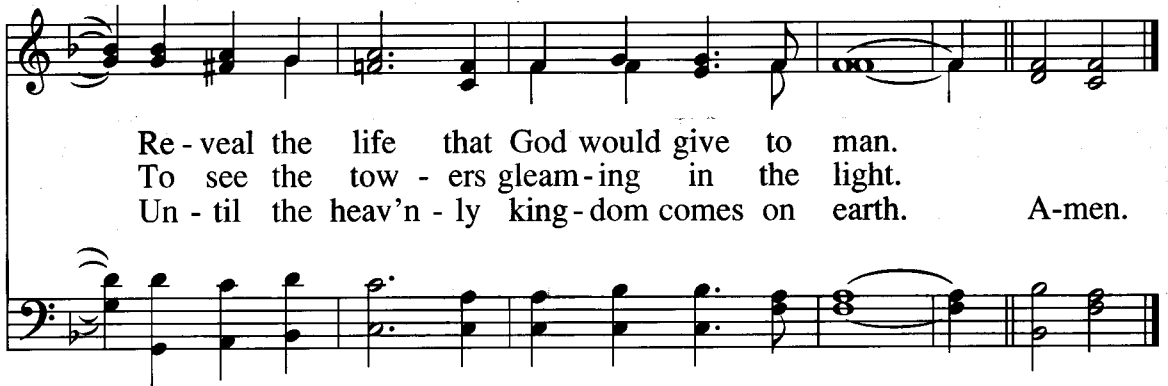
Wait - ing till love can raise the bro - ken stone,
 Ribbed with the steel that time and change doth mock,
 When to our ears there come di - vine com - mands

And hearts cre - a - tive bridge the hu - man rift.
 The un - fail - ing pur - pose of our no - blest creed.
 And all the pride of sin - ful will de - parts.

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE



We would be build - ing; Mas - ter, let Thy plan
Teach us to build; O Mas - ter, lend us sight
We build with Thee, O grant en - dur - ing worth



Re - veal the life that God would give to man.
To see the tow - ers gleam - ing in the light.
Un - til the heav'n - ly king - dom comes on earth. A-men.

Gracious and loving God, we give to You our deepest thanks for the Church that brings us together in Your Son's name. Teach us, Lord, to build our faith and our lives upon the solid rock of Your Son. Give to us a vision for the future of Your Church, that together we may build Your kingdom here on earth.

In the midst of our busy world, give to us a willingness to listen to Your voice and to follow Your way. Inspire courage and passion in us that we may be Your voice and hands in the world. We ask Your blessings upon us and all of Your Church. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.