

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, December 17, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent
Reception of New Members

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude: "Gaudete" (16th Century Christmas Carol, arr. Larry Sue)

Opening Sentences

Hymn 443: "Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

Opening Prayer

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Candle of Joy

Anthem: "Carol of Remembrance" and "Lullaby to a Rose" (from The Winter Rose) (Joseph M. Martin)

Receiving New Members: Dianna Emerson, Jack and Arleen Lampman

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts

Doxology

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

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I, the Lord, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Sermon: "LAMENT: A DIFFICULT MISSION"

Hymn 88: "Canticle of the Turning"

Benediction

Special Music: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (Traditional French Carol, arr. Mark Hayes and Marvin Gaspard)

Greet One Another

Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Barb and Jerry Fuller, Betty Briggs, Carol and Glenn Dunn, Chancel Choir, Marsha Hacker, Justin Stephens, Lorraine and Kim Finison, Shannon Quinn, Laura Sparks

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Minister: Seeking membership in this church, do you accept the religion of love and service that Jesus taught and lived; to love God and to love your neighbor as yourself; to make the spirit of Christ dominant in your relationships, also recognizing that we all are human; we make mistakes and sometimes we need to be forgiven and to offer forgiveness; do you therefore covenant together with all the members and friends of Mayflower Church to prayerfully promote harmony, faithfulness, and unconditional love, accepting a share in its privileges and duties, insofar as you are able, God being our helper?

(Those joining will respond: "I do".)

Mayflower's Response: *(The congregation is invited to rise, and read in unison.)*

We rejoice with you and joyfully receive you into membership and fellowship. We pledge our Christian love as you have promised us. We humbly pray to God that both you and we may be true to this covenant forever, through Jesus the Christ, Amen.

Mayflower Church Covenant

We are banded together as a Christian church to maintain the worship of God; to proclaim the Gospel of Christ; to develop a sense of our relationship and duty to God and our fellow persons; and to be an inspiration for love, truth, and passion for righteousness and enthusiasm for service. To this end we pledge our loyalty to Christ and covenant with each other to strive to express Christ's spirit in our individual and corporate lives; to live together as Christians and to submit ourselves to the government of this church: working; giving; praying for its increase, its purity, its peace; and seeking in every way to make it a power for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

1. Called as part - ners in Christ's serv - ice, Called to min - is -
 2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir - ing, Christ's clear call to
 3. Thus new pat - terns for Christ's mis - sion, In a small or
 4. So God grant us for to - mor - row Ways to or - der

tries of grace, We re - spond with deep com - mit - ment
 work and worth, Let us fol - low, nev - er fal - t'ring,
 glob - al sense, Help us bear each oth - er's bur - dens,
 hu - man life That sur - round each per - son's sor - row

Fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of
 Rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth. Men and wom - en, rich - er,
 Break - ing down each wall or fence. Words of com - fort, words of
 With a calm that con - quers strife. Make us part - ners in our

shar - ing, Side by side and friend with friend, E - qual part - ners
 poor - er, All God's peo - ple, young and old, Blend - ing hu - man
 vi - sion, Words of chal - lenge, said with care, Bring new pow'r and
 liv - ing, Our com - pas - sion to in - crease, Mes - sen - gers of

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'God's Covenant People'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The treble staff contains a melody line with notes and rests. The bass staff contains a bass line with notes and rests. The lyrics are written in the center, between the two staves, and are aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: 'in our car - ing To ful - fill God's cho - sen end. skills to - geth - er Gra - cious gifts from God un - fold. strength for ac - tion, Make us col - leagues, free and fair. faith, thus giv - ing Hope and con - fi - dence and peace.'

There are not enough of us to do Your work here on earth, Lord! Many of us have been in Your service for years and know that every effort we make in Your name becomes a blessing to us. The problem we have is enabling others to know that blessing as well. Lord, guide us in this endeavor! Help us seize the opportunities you present to us by providing us with the necessary words and actions to witness to the joy of a lifetime in Your service. As for me and my house, we have come to know that the longer, the deeper, and the broader our service has been to You, the closer we have come to Your presence. Help us to grow stronger in Your presence. Reveal to us the areas of life where our love has made all the difference in the life of another. Make us proud to be in Your service, and challenge us to affirm those who would join us in building Your kingdom. Thank You, Father, for the excitement of the journey we have made together. Thank You for the hills and valleys that have made life interesting, and thank You for the example of our Brother Jesus, who not only shows us how to walk in Your way, but walks for us when we are unwilling or unable. We give You all praise, because without You there is no meaning to our lives. Amen.

THE TRIUNE GOD

88

Canticle of the Turning

Luke 1:46-58

Rory Cooney, 1952-

Irish Traditional

Arr. by Rory Cooney, 1952-

Verses Unison

Em C D

1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2. Though I am small, my God, my all, You
 3. From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

Em C D Em

God of my heart is great, And my spir - it sings of the
 work great things in me, And Your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for Your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -

G D Em C Em

won - drous things that You bring to the ones who wait. You
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his throne. The
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This

G D

fixed Your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the

THE TRIUNE GOD

Em C D Em

weak-ness You did not spurn, So from east to west shall my
those who would for You yearn, You will show Your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; There are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod can be

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain G D

My heart shall sing of the day You bring. Let the

Em C D Em

fires of Your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!