

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP

Sunday, July 2, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

Communion Sunday

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude: "America the Beautiful" (Samuel A. Ward, arr. Cindy Berry)

Opening Sentences

Hymn 373: "In Heavenly Love Abiding"

Opening Prayer

Special Music: "Bless the Lord, O My Soul" (from Psalm 103) (Ruth Watson Henderson)

Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts

Doxology

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

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The LORD will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.'

Sermon: "AN UNCOMFORTABLE NARRATIVE"

Observance of Holy Communion

Hymn 385: "On Eagle's Wings"

Benediction

Benediction Response 578 (v. 1): "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from His dwelling take leave. The service is ended; Oh, now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe. The seed of His teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us; His love shall unite us to work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

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.

In Heavenly Love Abiding

Anna L. Waring, 1823-1910

Traditional Finnish Melody

Adapt. and harm. by David Evans, 1874-1948

1. In heav'n-ly love a - bid - ing, No change my heart shall fear,
 2. Wher - ev - er He may guide me, No want shall turn me back;
 3. Green pas-tures are be - fore me, Which yet I have not seen;

And safe is such con - fid - ing, For noth - ing chang - es here.
 My shep-herd is be - side me, And noth - ing can I lack.
 Bright skies will soon be o'er me, Where the dark clouds have been.

The storm may roar with - out me, My heart may low be laid, But
 His wis - dom ev - er wak - eth; His sight is nev - er dim; He
 My hope I can - not meas-ure; The path to life is free; My

God is round a - bout me, And can I be dis-mayed?
 knows the way He tak - eth, And I will walk with Him.
 Sav - ior has my treas-ure, And He will walk with me. A-men.

On Eagle's Wings

Michael Joncas, 1951-

Michael Joncas, 1951-

Verses 1-3

1. You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a -

(2.) snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and

3. You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the

bide in His shad-ow for life, say to the Lord: "My

fam-ine will bring you no fear: un-der His wings your

ar-row that flies by day; though thou - sands fall a -

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

ref - uge, His faith-ful - ness your shield.

bout you, near you it shall not come.

Dm F Gm A SUS4

Refrain

A7 D Em

And He will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the

A7 D D7/F# G Em A

breath of dawn, make you shine like the sun, and

Bm F#m Em A7 D

hold you in the palm of His hand. 2. The

Last time to coda \oplus *To verses*

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

Verse 4

4. For to His an-gels He's giv - en a com - mand to

G Dmaj7/F#

This system contains the first two measures of the music. The vocal line begins with a triplet of eighth notes (D4, E4, F#4) followed by a quarter note (G4), a quarter note (A4), and a quarter note (B4). The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a melody in the right hand that mirrors the vocal line.

guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

G Dmaj7/F# F

This system contains the next three measures. The vocal line continues with a quarter note (B4), a quarter note (A4), a quarter note (G4), and a quarter note (F#4). The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note bass line and right-hand melody.

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a- gainst a stone.

Gm Am Bb ASUS4

D.S.

This system contains the final three measures. The vocal line has a quarter note (F#4), a quarter note (E4), a quarter note (D4), and a quarter note (C4). The piano accompaniment concludes with a final chord in the right hand. The piece ends with the instruction 'D.S.' (Da Capo).

♩ Coda

And hold you, hold you in the

D Bm F#m Em7

palm of His hand.

A D

Almighty God, there are times in my life when I feel so vulnerable and so alone. The world can be a frightening place. There are dark shadows on every path. Fearful news overwhelms me. Questions and concerns worry me. I do not have the strength to carry on alone.

In those times I am grateful for Your care for me. In Your presence, I find comfort. In Your word, I find strength. In Your promise, I find assurance. My hope is in You. I dare to trust in You alone.

Lift me up, O God. Hold me in Your confident hands. Provide me with the energy of faith that I need for this and every hour. In Jesus' name. Amen.