

MAYFLOWER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
**A SERVICE OF MORNING WORSHIP**

Sunday, March 5, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent  
Communion Sunday

***Welcome and Greeting***

***Prelude Duet:*** "Kyrie" (Andrea Klouse)

***Opening Sentences***

***Hymn 511:*** "Hymn of Covenant"

***Opening Prayer***

***Anthem:*** "Close Your Eyes and See" (Pepper Choplin)

***Giving and Receiving of Our Gifts***

*Doxology (Hymn 563)*

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

***Gospel Reading:*** John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

***Sermon: "A METAPHOR OF BELIEF"***

***Observance of Holy Communion***

***Hymn 324:*** "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

***Benediction***

***Benediction Response:*** "Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace"

Let us now depart in thy peace, blessed Jesus. Send us to our homes with God's love in our hearts. Let not the busy world claim all our loyalties. Keep us ever mindful, dear Lord, of Thee.

***Greet One Another***

Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Barb and Jerry Fuller, Marsha Hacker, Chancel Choir

## 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.

GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

511

Hymn of Covenant

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Madelin Sue Martin

Unison

1. Bless now, O God, the jour - ney That all Your peo - ple  
 2. Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims Who share this wind - ing  
 3. Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, You meet us on the

make, The path through noise and si - lence, The  
 way, Whose hope burns through the ter - rors, Whose  
 road. We wait for land of prom - ise Where

way of give and take. The trail is found in  
 love sus - tains the day. We yearn for ho - ly  
 milk and hon - ey flow, But wait - ing not for

des - ert, And winds the moun - tain round, Then  
 free - dom While of - ten we are bound; To -  
 plac - es, You meet us all a - round. Our

## GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

leads be - side still wa - ters, The road where faith is  
geth - er we are seek - ing The road where faith is  
cov - e - nant is writ - ten On roads, as faith is

*Last time* Interlude to next verse  
found. found. found. *Last time*

Eternal God of time and space,  
we praise You for Your presence  
in the midst of life and days.

Gracious God of days and seasons,  
we thank You for Your blessings  
in all that life may bring.

For You are God with us,  
in every twist and turning.

Our lives are in Your hands.

So help us, Lord, to trust in You,  
and seek You in the everyday.

Help us, Lord, to live for You,  
and walk in all Your ways.

Lead us all together, by Your Holy Spirit,  
so that Your Kingdom come,  
Your Will be done,  
in each of us.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1936-1991

Trans. by Gertrude C. Suppe, 1911-,

George F. Lockwood, 1946-, and Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, 1927-

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1936-1991

Harm. by Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1945-1992

Unison

1. Lord, You have come to the lake - shore  
 2. You know so well my pos - ses - sions;  
 3. You need my hands, full of car - ing  
 4. You, who have fished oth - er o - ceans,

look - ing nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones;  
 my boat car - ries no gold and no weap - ons;  
 through my la - bors to give oth - ers rest,  
 ev - er longed for by souls who are wait - ing,

You on - ly asked me to fol - low hum - bly.  
 You will find there my nets and la - bor.  
 and con - stant love that keeps on lov - ing.  
 my lov - ing friend, as thus You call me.

Refrain / Estribillo

O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me,  
 Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos,

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

Irregular with Refrain

Text and tune © 1979, Cesáreo Gabaraín. Published by OCP. Harm. © 1987, Skinner Chávez-Melo

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GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE

and while smil - ing have spo - ken my  
son - ri - en - do has di - cho mi

name; now my boat's left  
nom - bre, en la a - re - na

on the shore-line be - hind me; by Your  
he de - ja - do mi bar - ca, jun - to a

side I will seek oth - er seas.  
ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.

1. Tú has venido a la orilla,  
no has buscado ni a sabios ni a ricos,  
tan sólo quieres que yo te siga.

Estribillo

2. Tú sabes bien lo que tengo:  
en mi barca no hay oro ni espadas,  
tan sólo redes y mi trabajo.

Estribillo

3. Tú necesitas mis manos,  
mi cansancio que a otros descanse,  
amor que quiera seguir amando.

Estribillo

4. Tú, pescador de otros lagos,  
ansia eterna de almas que esperan,  
amigo bueno, que así me llamas.

Estribillo