

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

Sunday, February 4, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany  
Communion Sunday

***Welcome and Greeting***

***Prelude:*** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (William Crofton, arr. Cindy Berry)

***Opening Sentences***

***Hymn 155:*** "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

***Opening Prayer***

***Anthem:*** "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" (Isaac Watts, arr. Virgil Thomson)

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

*Doxology*

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

***Scripture Readings:***

Genesis 1:1-5, 14-19, 26-27: In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

John 1:1-9: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

***Sermon: "THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"***

***Observance of Holy Communion***

***Hymn 78:*** "Christ Is the World's True Light"

***Benediction***

***Benediction Response 153:*** "Siyahamba / We Are Marching"

1) We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, Oo, we are marching in the light of God. 2) We are singing in the light of God. . . 3) We are dancing for the Lord is our light. . .

***Greet One Another***

Participants: Pastor Mark and DeeAnn McCormick, Bruce Bonney, Barb Fuller, Kathy Farnum, 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.

1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the  
 2. Dark and cheer - less is the morn Un - ac - com - pa -  
 3. Vis - it, then, this soul of mine; Pierce the gloom of

on - ly Light, Sun of Right - eous - ness, a - rise,  
 nied by Thee; Joy - less is the day's re - turn,  
 sin and grief; Fill me, Ra - dian - cy di - vine,

Tri - umph o'er the shades of night; Day - spring from on  
 Till Thy mer - cy's beams I see; Till they in - ward  
 Scat - ter all my un - be - lief; More and more Thy -

high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.  
 light im - part, Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.  
 self dis - play, Shin - ing to the per - fect day. A - men.

Christ Is the World's True Light

George W. Briggs, 1875-1959

Ahasuerus Fritsch, 1649-1701  
Harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685-1750

1. Christ is the world's true light, Its cap-tain of sal - va - tion,  
2. In Christ all ra - ces meet, Their an - cient feuds for - get - ting,  
3. One Lord, in one great name U - nite us all who claim You;

The day - star clear and bright Of ev - 'ry land and na - tion;  
The whole round world com - plete, From sun - rise to its set - ting;  
Cast out our pride and shame That hin - der all to name You;

New life, new hope a - wakes Wher - e'er we own God's way; From  
When Christ is throned as Lord, All shall for - sake their fear To  
The world has wait - ed long, Has la - bored long in pain; To

bon - dage free - dom breaks, And night is turned to day.  
plough-share beat the sword, To prun - ing-hook the spear.  
heal its an - cient wrong. Come, Prince of peace, and reign. A-men.