



## Did you know John Robinson...

John Robinson was the beloved pastor and teacher of the early Puritan separatists until they emigrated to America on the Mayflower in 1620. He was ordained into the Anglican priesthood, but soon accepted the views of the Separatists who could not in good conscience participate in Anglican rituals. Their desire to separate from the national church was seen as an offense to God and country.

Conformity laws were passed making it illegal to hold private religious services. Violators were subject to heavy fines and imprisonment. Robinson resigned his Anglican pastorate and took up the Separatist cause where he served as an itinerant minister to secret Separatist meetings. He became close friends with William Brewster in Scrooby where a Separatist church met in his house. He also wrote, *A Justification of Separation from the Church of England*.

When the Scrooby congregation decided to emigrate to the Netherlands Robinson followed them there to serve as their pastor. After ten years thirty-five members of Robinson's congregation decided to sail to America on the Mayflower.

In his farewell speech to them he said, "If God reveal anything to you by any other instrument of His, be as ready to receive it as you were to receive any truth from my ministry, for I am verily persuaded the Lord hath more truth and light yet to break forth from His holy word." The Mayflower arrived at Massachusetts on 21 November 1620. For the next several years, the Pilgrims eagerly awaited the arrival of John Robinson, but he died before he could join them.

**...was a Congregationalist?**

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400 YEARS OF *Faith*  
AMERICAN  
CONGREGATIONALISM  
SINCE 1620

## Call To Worship

L: We gather together, to ask the Lord's blessing

**C: God chastens and hastens, divine will to make known**

L: Come, let us worship as God's pilgrim people

**C: For we have the voice, and heart, and will to be God's pilgrim people**

## Invocation (in unison)

We remember this day our Pilgrim forebears, whose constant prayers and unshakable courage brought them to this land we now call home. They brought their sins, their cares, their temptations, too, and found their help and strength from You. We approach You with the same needs and the hope that this hour may be for us a time of grace and empowerment to live with courage as Christ's new pilgrims. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Norm Erlendson

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