

# Celebration of Heroes



**September 13, 2020**  
**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**

**WELCOME! WE ARE GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US!**

**May God bless your experience in worship with us today.  
We are here to serve, so please let us know how we might better serve you.**

**If this is your first time at Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church, may we suggest....**

- You are invited to share your prayer concerns by writing them on the Prayer Request Cards located in pew and placing them in offering plate.
- If you need any assistance, or help locating restrooms or the water fountain, please see a greeter.
- Junior Church will be held in the narthex after the Children's Moments
- Adult Sunday School and Nursery are not available at this time.
- No refreshments will be served at this time.

**Order of Worship  
Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
A Service of Remembrance and Hope  
and  
Honoring Our Local Heroes**

**SENDING**

**CENTERING**

GREETING

PRELUDE: "Hail The Day So Rich In Cheer" Pachelbel  
"As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)

GATHERING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
**People: And also with you.**  
Pastor: We come on the 17th anniversary of 9/11 to remember.  
**People: We come to remember the sacrifices made.**  
Pastor: Remembrance gives purpose to our past.  
**People: Remembrance reignites hope.**  
Pastor: We remember that God is faithful even in our darkest hours.  
**People: We come to rekindle the flame of hope and celebrate the faithfulness of God.**  
Hymn Jesus Remember Me No. 488, 2 times  
Pastor: Throughout scripture, God urges us to remember...to remember and honor.

CHIMES AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

**PRAISING**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" No. 140

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Anniversaries are important to us.  
**People: Often they are times for celebration.**  
Leader: Sometimes they are times for thoughtful commitment.  
**People: But for many of us, they are also times when memory of some trauma, consciously or unconsciously, moves us in ways we do not understand.**  
Leader: May this year's remembrance be for us a continuation of true healing.  
**People: May this year's remembrance call us close to Christ, in whom alone is our hope.**  
Leader: We come in faith to worship the living Christ who is our hope, our strength, our refuge.

OPENING PRAYER

**Almighty God, our Father, from whom we come, and to whom our spirits return: You have been our dwelling place in all generations. You are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Grant us your blessing in this hour, and enable us so to put our trust in you that our spirits may grow calm and our hearts be comforted. Lift our eyes beyond the shadows of earth, and help us to see the light of eternity. So may we find grace and strength for this and every time of need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

INTROIT "On Eagles Wings" No. 143

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

**\*REMEMBERING**

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor: We come this day to remember.  
**People: Remembrance begins with deep personal identification.**

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor: With those who are pure of heart,  
**People: we go forth with the protection of God.**  
Pastor: With those who sow justice in the world,  
**People: we go forth to reap a harvest of righteousness.**  
Pastor: With those who live their faith,  
**People: we go forth to bring the kingdom here on earth.**  
Pastor: With those who know the vastness of God's love,  
**People: we go forth to share this love with others.**  
Pastor: Go with God.

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: "Danish Amen" No. 898

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN: "Let There Be Peace On Earth" No. 431

\*POSTLUDE: "Lord God, We All to Thee Give Praise" Pachelbel

*"We take the light of Jesus into the world"*

\*HONORING THOSE WHO DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

*(The bells will toll seven times. The number seven in the scriptures denotes wholeness, completion, perfection.)*

\*A MOMENT OF SILENCE

## HEARING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord, open our eyes, our ears, our minds, and our hearts:

**That we might behold wondrous things out of your word.**

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Thy Word"

No. 601 (refrain only)

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 14: 19-31

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks Be To God.**

\*GOSPEL INTRO: "Alleluia"

"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia"

\*Gospel Lesson

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

A reading from the Gospel of St. Mark

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

\*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Mark 7:24-37

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 71

## PROCLAIMING

SERMON "A Difficult Day to Follow Jesus"

Reverend Russel Shuluga

## RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

People of God, what good is it if we claim to have faith but do nothing to show it? Our faith cannot save us if we see a brother who is naked and do not clothe him. Our faith cannot make us well if we see a sister who is hungry and we turn our backs on her. Let us show that our faith is alive and well through our offerings this day.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

Zachau

\*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of justice and impartiality, you teach us to treat others without favoritism— whether rich or poor, male or female, believer or unbeliever. You call us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. May today's offering sow hope and help in your world, that our faith might be found alive and well, and that the needy may touch your love through our giving. Amen.**

Pastor: It begins with remembering the affliction of our brothers and sisters, and making their pain as our own.

**People: Remembrance is a sacred moment when we raise up and hold to the light of the eternal moment.**

Pastor: When we remember the stockbrokers, office workers, maintenance workers, bystanders, window-washers and all the others who worked together so valiantly to help each other, we can say together,

**People: We remember great courage.**

Pastor: When we recall the firefighters who rushed upstairs, as most everyone else was racing out, we can say together,

**People: We remember selfless service.**

Pastor: When we recall the police officers who stood to protect and defend the people and performed their duties, until the towers came crashing down on top of them, we can say together,

**People: We remember selfless sacrifice for the safety of others.**

Pastor: When we recall those citizens who rushed to help, did all they could to help, we can say together,

**People: We remember and give thanks for dutiful commitment to those in distress.**

Pastor: When we recall the people who stood in line at the nation's blood banks to make living donations from their very bodies, we can say together,

**People: We give thanks for those who live on to pass on life and love.**

Pastor: When we remember the millions of Americans, who gave so generously of their life and labor to endow funds to help the survivors and their families recover from their losses, we can say together,

**People: We are grateful for generosity.**

Pastor: When we recall the thousands of workers, women and men, old and young, single and married, American-born and those born in countries around the world, who did not escape the buildings, we can say together;

**People: We remember the loss of human life.**

Pastor: This is a day of solemn remembrance — of tragedy and sacrifice, of atrocity and heroism, of cruelty and kindness. On this day, we remember the 2,977 souls who perished seventeen years ago.

Hymn: "Amazing Grace" #378 verses 1, 3 & 6

*(A white rose will be presented in memory of all those who perished on September 11, 2001 as a result of the terrorist attacks.)*

A MOMENT OF SILENCE

## HONORING CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL HEROES

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O Lord, Our God, you call each of us to be your servants.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for those who willingly face danger to preserve our safety and welfare.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for those who bind up our wounds and minister to us in our times of distress.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for those who work days and nights, holidays and weekends, that we might be safe and protected.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for those who serve our needs, regardless of weather or daunting conditions.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives in service, and for those who continue to suffer from injury in the line of duty.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants.**

Pastor: We give thanks for the families of our local heroes who have also sacrificed much, as they wait patiently for their loved ones who respond to our needs.

**People: We thank you, God, for these servants..**

(Local Heroes are invited to come forward at this time for a blessing.)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

*(Prayer for Social Justice, Book of Common Prayer)*

**O Lord, our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be ministered unto but to minister: Bless, we beseech thee, all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, the same thy Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**