

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*As you are comfortably able you are invited to stand where indicated \*.*

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## GATHERING

### GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Andante" Sheppard

### GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: God is in god's holy temple. God is with us and call us to this holy hour.  
People: **We come from the busyness and chaos of our lives seeking God's peace.**

Hymn: "Come and Find the Quiet Center" TFWS # 2128 V. 1

### CHIMES AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

## PRAISING

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" # 126 V.1,2 & 4

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, let us bow down to the Lord; let us kneel before the Lord our maker.  
People: **In the ancient times, God had mercy on Israel and led them through the desert to a new land.**

Pastor: This day the Lord is showering us with mercy, bringing us hope and peace.  
People: **We long to feel the showers of hope and mercy on us.**

Pastor: Lord, guide our feet as we run this race of faith for you.  
People: **Lord, open our hearts as we reach out to others in compassion. AMEN.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Your love has brought us together, O Lord, and it is your love that sustains us through each day. We pray that you would keep us faithful. Even as we watch for signs of your kingdom, strengthen us to work with you to bring about, here and now, your reign on earth. Give us the courage to witness to your presence in the world, today, tomorrow, and into the future. We pray in the name of the One who comes, Christ our Savior. Amen.

INTROIT "Grace Alone" TFWS # 2162

### CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

## HEARING

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor: O Lord, open our eyes, our ears, our minds, and our hearts.  
People: **That we might behold wondrous things out of your word.**

CHORAL RESPONSE "Thy Word" #601 Refrain only

FIRST LESSON 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" #186

### \*GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Lord be with you,  
People: **And also with you.**  
Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew.  
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

\*THE GOSPEL IS READ Matthew 25: 1-13

### \*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.  
People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

\*GLORIA PATRI #70

## PROCLAIMING

SERMON "When the Church Doesn't Show Up On Time" Reverend Russel Shuluga

## CONFESSING

### INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,  
who earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one another.  
Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### GENERAL CONFESSION

**God of Mystery, we want to stay awake and be ready for your surprises, but we are tired and overcome with the usual routine.  
We want to wait patiently for the fulfillment of your kingdom, but we are frustrated by our need for immediate gratification.  
We want to believe your promises from ancient days, but we are overwhelmed with postmodern doubts. Come to us again, O God.  
Awaken us with your unexpected grace. Shock us with your daring mercy. Lift us up from lethargy and set our feet on your path once more. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSON

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Encourage one another with these words:  
"We will be with the Lord forever."  
God's promises are never forgotten.  
Do not grieve as those who have no hope.  
Our hope is in God, and not even death can overcome that hope.  
Enter into God's mercy and love!

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"Blessed Assurance"

#369 V. 1

## RESPONDING

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Lord, as you have so abundantly blessed each of us, let us return a portion of these gifts in gratitude for all you have given to us. Let us receive our morning offering.

### THE LORD'S OFFERING OFFERTORY

"Communion"

Leybach

\*THE DOXOLOGY

#95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Blessing upon blessing has been given to us, O Lord, from your great bounty.  
Now we return these gifts to you. Bless these gifts and the lives that they represent and cause them to work for you in this world which you have loaned to us. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

## HOLY EUCHARIST

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**  
It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
always and everywhere 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 the prophets.  
And so, with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
Your Spirit anointed him  
to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
and to announce that the time had come  
when you would save your people.  
He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.  
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection  
you gave birth to your Church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,  
and made with us a new covenant  
by water and the Spirit.  
When the Lord Jesus ascended,  
he promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
"Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me."

And so,  
in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world,  
until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given  
yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING

## \*BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** Go out to stay awake! Go out to keep alert and be ready!

**People:** **We do not know the day or the hour,  
but we do know that God goes with us at all hours, on all days.**

**Pastor:** Go with the love of God, the peace of Christ,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **We go to witness and serve! Amen.**

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Danish Amen" #898  
\*RECESSIONAL HYMN: "Living for Jesus" TFWS #2149 V. 1  
\*POSTLUDE "Our Father In the Heaven Who Art" J.S. Bach

**"WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD"**

**November 8, 2020  
23rd Sunday After Pentecost**



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**WELCOME Visitors: WE ARE GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US!  
If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining 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,

- 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 or give them to greeter/usher prior to the service if you would like them to be shared during service.
- If you need any assistance, or help locating restrooms or the water fountain, please ask a greeter/usher.
- Jr. Church will be held in the Whitney Room after the Children's Sermon.

- No Nursery available at this time.