



***1st Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2020***

***Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
Pastor: Reverend Russel W. Shuluga***

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Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. 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.

December 27, 2020
First Sunday After Christmas Day

CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: Born to set your people free!

People: From sin, and guilt;

Pastor: From anger, and bitterness,

People: From anxiety, and worry;

Pastor: From sickness, and oppression;

People: From sorrow, and death.

Pastor: Let us praise the God who has sent his Son,

People: To set us free from all that holds us in its power.

PRAISING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"There's a Song in the Air"

#249

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: From the stillness of the blessed night of Jesus' birth.

People: We come before You, O God, in praise and thanksgiving.

Pastor: From the astounding news sung to the shepherds

People: We thank You for the gift of Your Son.

Pastor: Let our hearts keep the joy and peace of Christmas always.

People: Let our spirits rejoice in God's presence with us.

Pastor: Fill us with Your love, O God.

People: Pour Your peace upon us that we may be bearers of Your Good News.

All: Amen!

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of mercy and joy, You have given to us the blessing of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, forgiveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we encounter others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

INTROIT

“Away in a Manger”

#217

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess to God and before one another our sins, and especially our failure to truly open ourselves to God’s presence and wisdom in our worship.

GENERAL CONFESSION

We confess, O God that we are not ready to come down from the Christmas “high.” Somehow, right after Christmas Day, we feel a letdown. We don’t want that “high” to be over. We want to feel the “peace on earth” feeling, but we let it go. We push it aside when we begin our journey of complaining and blaming others for everything that is going wrong. We ignore the blessing of the gift when we refuse to help those in need. Shake us up, Lord! Get us ready to be people of compassion and hope. Wake us up, Lord! Help us see the beauty and possibilities of peace around us. Fill us up, Lord! Fill us to overflowing with joy. Let our words, our thoughts, and our actions speak of your love for us. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Behold! God has given God’s Son that we might have life—new, vital, sparkling. Feel the wondrous power and love of God in your heart this day and know that God is with you always. Amen.

HEARING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

FIRST LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

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

GOSPEL LESSON

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

THE GOSPEL IS READ

Luke 2:22-40

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROCLAIMING

SERMON

“Two Old Prophets and a Baby”

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

When the time came to dedicate their son to the Lord, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple in thanksgiving and praise. In honor of the ancient tradition, we come this day to dedicate our lives and these, our humble gifts, to God in thanksgiving and praise.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, thank you for the gifts of Christmas that bless us throughout the year. As we offer you our offering in gratitude and praise, we dedicate our labor, our industry, and our very lives to the building of your kingdom. May our gifts go forth to a world in need, as signs of your redemption and your hope. May we shine with your glory, that others may discover your saving love. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go in peace, for we have seen the salvation of God.

People: We go with joy, for Christ has clothed us with love.

Pastor: Go in hope, for the Spirit shows us our glorious inheritance in the Lord.

People: We go with God.

CLOSING HYMN

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

#251

“WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD”

Liturgist: Diana Spencer