



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.

February 28, 2021
Second Sunday of Lent
Black History Month
Order of Worship

CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS:

Pastor: Welcome this day to the second step on our Lenten journey.

People: We have encountered the wilderness.

Pastor: Now we are moving rapidly toward Jerusalem.

People: Along the way, we will witness astonishing acts of mercy and justice.

Pastor: Lord, be with us on the journey.

People: Guide our lives and our steps, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

“Jesus, Remember Me”

No. 488

PRAISING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Let us turn our minds from human things.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Pastor: Let us set our minds on divine things.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Pastor: We will deny ourselves and take up our cross.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

Pastor: We will lose all; that we may gain all.

People: Our faith in Jesus saves us.

OPENING HYMN

“Lift High the Cross”

No. 159

OPENING PRAYER

God, you have given us everything. What can we give in return for our lives? Be our guide on our Lenten journey. Help us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Jesus. We welcome the chastening direction in our lives as we worship you today. Amen!

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION

GENERAL CONFESSION

Guiding Lord, even though we hesitated on our Lenten journey; we vowed to come with you through all the trials and fears toward the Cross. Today we face the challenge which true commitment brings. Are we willing to offer our whole selves to you in service? We would like to think that we can do that, but we are aware of how many times we have turned away from service and instead focused on our own desires. Remind us again of the commitment you would have us give if we are to become disciples. Forgive our stubbornness and fears. Lead us forward, gracious Lord, up these steps toward the Cross. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The journey of discipleship is never easy; but you can be assured that you will not be on this journey alone. Place your trust in Jesus. AMEN.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"Be Still, My Soul"

No. 534

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.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

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. Mark.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL IS READ

Mark 8: 31-38

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

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

PROCLAIMING

SERMON

“Are We Able? Are We Willing?”

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

HYMN

“Where He Leads Me”

#338

SENDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The psalmist proclaims that creation will remember and return to God. As those blessed to be a blessing to others, may we return to God with the gifts of our hands and hearts.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of manifold blessings, bless our lives to your service, even as we consecrate these gifts in service of a world in need. May our offering go forth this day, and be a reflection of your glory for all who struggle to know your ways. As these gifts go forth to do your work, may they help others hear your voice as you call their names. In the spirit of your grace and peace, we pray. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go forth with the voice of God calling your name.

People: We go in the love of God.

Pastor: Go forth to hear Christ claiming you as his own.

People: We go in the mercy of God.

Pastor: Go forth to follow where the Spirit sends you.

People: We go in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Go forth, called, named, and claimed by God.

CLOSING HYMN

“Are Ye Able, said the Master”

No. 530

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD!

Zoom Host: Ashley Stuart

Liturgist: Diana Spencer