



FEBRUARY 21, 2021

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 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent
Black History Month
Order of Worship

CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS:

- Pastor: Come all who are lost and in pain. God calls to you.
People: Lord, lift us from our fears and sorrows; bring us close to you.
Pastor: Come all who have lost hope, who feel that there is nothing worth living for.
People: Lord, clear away our blindness that we may see the light of your love.
Pastor: Come, do not despair. God is calling your name.
People: We want to be ready for this journey. Help us, Lord. Make us ready to trust you.

OPENING HYMN

“Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

No. 269

PRAISING

CALL TO WORSHIP

- Pastor: Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.
People: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.
Pastor: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.
People: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.
Pastor: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in who he trusted.
People: As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

OPENING PRAYER

As we enter the season of Lent, remind us anew of your saving grace, and our chance for rebirth through the cleansing waters of our baptism. Amidst the storms and floods of life, teach us the ways of life and death, that we may use his season as a time of gratitude for the past, and a time of hope for the future, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

INTROIT

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”

TFWS #2112

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Kim Viehland

PRAYING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

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 9:8-17

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALTER

"Psalm 25:1-10"

No. 757

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust,
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.
Let none that wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are clothed with treachery.
Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.
Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Remember, not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!
Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore the Lord instructs sinners in the way,
and leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches them their way.
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep the Lord's covenant and
testimonies.

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 1:9-15

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

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

PROCLAIMING

SERMON

“The Wild Beasts Were With Him”

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“The Apostles’ Creed”

No. 881

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, is only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead:
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty:
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We can say with Jesus today, “Here comes God’s kingdom! Trust this good news!” Because we trust the power and love of God, and we live into God’s kingdom, let us give the gifts of our lives to God, including the pieces of our lives for God to transform. May our gifts announce God’s in-breaking kingdom, transforming us and our world.

THE LORD’S OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Because you are the God who saves us, we give you these gifts. Take our lives and our gifts and use them to save our world. We put our hope in you. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go forth as signs of God's love.

People: We go as rainbows of compassion and hope.

Pastor: Go forth as children of God's promise.

People: we go as signs of God's love and mercy!

Pastor: Go forth as heirs of God's covenant of grace.

People: we go as pools of baptismal water, blessing all we touch.

CLOSING HYMN:

"The Old Rugged Cross"

No. 504

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD!

Zoom Host: Ashley Stuart

Liturgist: Richard Wilson

Children's Moments: Kim Viehland