



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.

March 7, 2021 Order of Worship Third Sunday of Lent

CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS:

Pastor: Called by Christ,

People: we gather as one.

Pastor: Blessed by God's wisdom,

People: we gather to learn.

Pastor: Amazed by God's love,

People: we gather to worship.

HYMN

"Jesus Remember Me"

No. 488

PRAISING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This is the third step on our Lenten Journey. Come with us on this Lenten Journey to the Temple.

People: The temple is the great House of the Lord.

Pastor: It is on this journey that God will confront us.

People: It is on this journey that we will face our greed and selfishness.

Pastor: The Lord will be asking us to recognize our selfishness.

People: Our hearts are ready to receive God.

Pastor: Come, then, and let us move forward toward the Cross.

OPENING PRAYER

God of righteous fire, just as Jesus was consumed with passion as he cleared the Temple, may we be consumed with passion as we seek justice and righteousness in our world. Just as Christ never flinched on his journey to the cross, may we never waver in our devotion to you and our defense of the poor. On this great journey of Lent, teach us the perfection of your ways, as we keep our eyes fixed upon your Son. Amen.

HYMN

"The Old Rugged Cross"

No. 504

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION

God knows our intentions and our deeds. We need honest and humble confession of thoughts, words, and deeds that have done harm to others and ourselves. Let us confess to our Merciful God, ways we make even religion serve selfish and narrow ends: Let us pray.

GENERAL CONFESSION

Patient Lord, we have cluttered the “temples” of our lives with so many unnecessary things that they have blocked out your healing words of hope and mercy. We have been keenly aware of our economic situation and have spent much time and energy worrying about these things. Forgive us when we have been so preoccupied with these things that we have not listened to your words and followed your ways. Clear away our fears and frustrations. Give us clean hearts and spirits. Help us to be confident in your mercy and transformation love. These things we offer in the name of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rejoice! You are forgiven. Let the clutter of your life fall away and be replaced by the love of God in Christ Jesus.

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

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

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. John

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL IS READ

John 2:13-22

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

PROCLAIMING

SERMON

“What Breaks God’s Heart Should Also Break Ours”

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The house of God is not a marketplace for buying and selling. It is a house of prayer, a place of healing and restoration, a place where we bring before God our provisions to be used for present needs. Let us bring our tithes and offerings to God.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

May the gifts we bring be gifts of love. May the offerings we share be offerings of our hearts. May each gift be blessed by your grace, that others may know the truth of your wisdom and your love. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Blessed by God's wisdom,

People: we go forth refreshed and renewed.

Pastor: Called by Christ,

People: we go now to serve.

Pastor: Amazed by God's love,

People: we go now to love.

CLOSING HYMN

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

No 295

'WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD'

Ashley Stuart: Zoom Host

Liturgist: Barbara Thaw