



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Pastor: Reverend Russel W. Shuluga

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MARCH 14, 2021

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.

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

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CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: Come all who are weary and burdened. Christ calls to you as we continue our Lenten journey.

People: Through all the stresses of life, we come. We are tired and need God's healing love.

Pastor: Know that as Christ has called your name, He has redeemed your life.

People: We rejoice in Christ's love for us, in that he gave his life that we might live.

HYMN

"To God Be the Glory"

No. 98

PRAISING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

People: When we lose our way in life, God finds us.

Pastor: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

People: When the spirit part of us becomes caged, God frees us.

Pastor: "**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.**" Thanks be to God.

OPENING PRAYER

Great Triune God, we have gathered here in your name as an act of faith, believing that you are not only among us, but that you love us. It is often hard to recognize your love, see your mercy, and feel your presence. Help us today in our worship, that we might be transparent to your grace, as you reveal yourself to each one of us. Amen.

INTROIT

"Surely the Presence of the Lord"

No. 328

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION

By nature, we are impatient, irritated, grumbling, disobedient children, always demanding our way. But God, who is good and kind and gentle, comes to transform us, by grace, into the people we are meant to be. Let us open ourselves to the One who overflows with love for us, as we confess our sins to God.

GENERAL CONFESSION

Pastor: God, we have sinned against you. We have spoken against you and your servant Jesus.

People: We have uttered lies. We have cursed you and others. We have said vulgar things. We have been consumed by doubt.

Pastor: We have been bitten with the venom of hatred in our world.

People: We have oppressed the helpless. We have been intolerant of others. We have delighted in violence. We have spent money foolishly.

Pastor: Please, Lord God, forgive us our transgressions, that we may be healed of our sin.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear now the loving truth of God: God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned.

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

Numbers 21:4-9

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

LESSON RESPONSE

"Give Thanks"

TFWS 2036

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 2:1-10

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 3: 14-21

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROCLAIMING

SERMON

"All The Wrong Questions"

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

From God's immeasurable grace, we have been saved by faith. In thankfulness for this might gift, let us give thanks to the Lord and offer God homage, as we offer back our tithes and our offerings.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of light and love, as Jesus shined your light into our troubled world, may our offering bring Rays of your holy light into the dark corners of our world. May these gifts reach the places where the fear of death holds sway, that others may find Christ's life in the midst of their pain. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: God sends us forth with the immeasurable gift of faith.

People: We will live in the joy of our salvation.

Pastor: God sends us forth to walk in the light of holy love.

People: We will walk in the light of Christ.

Pastor: God sends us forth in spirit and in truth.

People: We will journey in the Spirit's tender mercies.

Pastor: Go with the blessings of God.

CLOSING HYMN

"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

No. 381

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD!

Zoom Host: Ashley Stuart

Liturgist: Kim Viehland