



***Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church***

**Pastor: Reverend Russel W. Shuluga**

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**MARCH 21, 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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**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Order in Worship**

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**CENTERING**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: Come, let us turn our hearts toward the Lord!

**People: Let us sing of God's power and grace.**

Pastor: May our spirits and lives be open to receive God's word.

**People: May we be ready to serve God by serving in God's world.**

Pastor: Bring your sorrows and joys, your hopes and your dreams before the Lord.

**People: We bring every aspect of our lives to God for healing and comfort.**

HYMN

"Glorify Thy Name"

TFWS #2016

**.PRAISING**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This is the fifth step on our Lenten journey, the step of sacrifice.

**People: Be with us, Lord, as we take this step.**

Pastor: This requires the willingness to give all of your life to the Lord.

**People: Be with us, Lord, as we commit our lives to you.**

Pastor: Come, let us worship and offer our voices of praise to God.

**People: Let us open our hearts and spirits to God this day. AMEN.**

HYMN

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

No. 454

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, this Lenten journey has been filled with the unexpected. You have asked us to look deep within ourselves, to identify the many ways in which we have turned away from you. Again this day, we ask that you open our hearts to receive your word of healing and hope. The cross of Good Friday looms in our future and we face it with fear. Bring us through this time with confidence and trust in your guiding love. For we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

INTROIT

"Only Trust Him"

No. 337

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

Diana Spencer

## CONFESSING

### CALL TO CONFESSION

If we would see Jesus, we must open our eyes to the ways we have not followed him as disciples. If we want God to create new hearts within us, we must speak of the old ways in which we continue to live. If we seek God's mercy, we must confess all that keeps us from living as God's children. Join me, as we come to the One who will forgive us.

### GENERAL CONFESSION

**Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future we hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our witness to your healing mercy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: Even though the future is clouded; God is with us, guiding, healing, comforting, restoring. Rejoice! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and healed. AMEN.

## 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

Jeremiah 31 31-34

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

### LESSON RESPONSE

"Near to the Heart of God"

No. 472

### SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 5:5-10

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 12:2-33

## THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## PROCLAIMING

### SERMON

"I Want to See Jesus"

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

## RESPONDING

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As we anticipate the transformation already begun within us, as we look toward being made perfect in God's holy love, let us respond in the joy of our salvation and in the hope of God's covenant people.

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Generous and all-loving God grant us the wisdom to know you more completely. Give us the hope to live as your people. Inspire us to give of our spirits more fully, in the faith that your promise is already within us. As we give our gifts and tithes today, we recommit ourselves to your service and to the service of your people. May we do so in response to your unending call that beckons us and leads us home. We pray as followers of the glorified Christ. Amen.**

## SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Assured of God's promises, written on our hearts,

**People: we go, scattered like seeds, ready to sow love.**

Pastor: Lifted by the Risen One, abiding in our hearts,

**People: we go, scattered like seeds, ready to rehearse resurrection.**

Pastor: Empowered by the Spirit, at work transforming our hearts,

**People: we go, scattered like seeds, ready to rise to new life!**

CLOSING HYMN

“Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord”

Michael W. Smith

**WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD!**

Zoom Host: Ashley Stuart

Liturgist: Candy Morgan

Children's Moments: Diana Spencer