



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Website: www.Mifflinave.org Pastor's email: Pastor@mifflinave.org.

Pastor Russel contact information: Phone: (412) 735-5072
Email: Shulugarussel@gmail.com

Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask a greeter or a person sitting near you. 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.

**May 2, 2021
5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR B**

Order of Worship

CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"In Perfect Peace"

S.K. Riggs

(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)

GATHERING WORDS:

Pastor: In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God.

People: **If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.**

PRAISING

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN (AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT) "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

No. 384

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come and worship the God who is Love.

People: With awe and reverence, we offer praises to our God.

Pastor: Know God and learn what true love really is.

People: we open our minds to embrace God's love.

Pastor: Take this knowledge and place it in your hearts.

People: With hearts filled with God's love, we will serve the world.

OPENING PRAYER

We praise you, O God, for you are love eternal. We have come to worship you and to learn of you. We pray that our learning may be in our minds and in our hearts, in our words and in our deeds. Amen.

INTROIT

"Spirit Song"

No. 347

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

HEARING

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Thy Word"

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"

FIRST LESSON

Acts 8:26-40

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"

No. 349

*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 15:1-8

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

PROCLAIMING

SERMON

"Come On In"

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess to God and before one another our sins, and especially the unloving ways that we treat others.

GENERAL CONFESSION

We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. We have not loved you with our whole being. We have not loved our neighbors as we love ourselves. We fail to see others as sisters and brothers. We fail to discern the Christ in the other. Cleanse us with your love and empower us with your Spirit. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

When we abide in Christ, we abide in the vine of love and grace. Abide in the vine, and receive mercy beyond measure.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“My Tribute”

No. 99

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

“Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men”

J.G. Walther

* DOXOLOGY

No. 95

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Bountiful God, you fill the poor with good things and cause the hungry to be satisfied. May these gifts be instruments of your grace and may our very lives be the means of spreading your blessings. Make these gifts be for the world a sign of your boundless love and your overflowing abundance. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION

Pastor: Come to the table of grace, for Christ is the vine and we are the branches.

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Pastor: Come to the table of love, for whoever does not love, does not know God.

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

Pastor: Come to the table of blessing, for Christ is here to abide in us, as we abide in him.

People: Come, Holy Spirit, come.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O Lord our God, King of the universe! You fashioned us from the elements of creation, breathed into us your breath of life, and appointed us your ambassadors upon earth. Far from accepting your love, we have turned our backs on you and, with prideful arrogance, have proclaimed our own will rather than your will. Despite our sin, you continued to strive with us, sending your Word into the world to proclaim your love for all. And so, with your children on earth

and all the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Throughout the season of Lent we were reminded that, even though we have forsaken your love, your love has never forsaken us. Your grace is more amazing than our sin, your peace is more comforting than our strength, your spirit is more powerful than our fear. In the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, you revealed your grace, your peace, and your strength to the world. His words taught us the way of life, his acts showed us the way of life, and his death and resurrection opens the way of life for us all. And so, today, we praise you for the victory over sin and death which we have in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord:

Pastor: Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!

People: The Lord is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING CONTINUES...

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave the cup to his disciples and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." On the day you raised Jesus from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread; and in the power of your Holy Spirit we your Church have continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died Christ is risen Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with your Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (to be sung)

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

"Give Thanks"

TFWS No. 2036

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God.

People: We will be born of love each day of our lives.

Pastor: Beloved, let us abide in Christ's love, for he is the vine and we are the branches.

People: We will grow as Christ's disciples and bear fruit for a world in need.

Pastor: Beloved, let us care for one another, for the Spirit helps us abide in God's peace.

People: We will glorify God in the lives we lead.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Danish Amen"

No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

No 402, vs. 1 & 4

POSTLUDE

"O Lord, Look Down From Heaven, Behold"

J. Pachelbel

'WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD'