



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 9, 2021
6th Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day
Order of Worship**

CENTERING

PRELUDE

"O Lord My God"

M. Dupre

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: According to an old Jewish saying, "God could not be everywhere, and therefore, he made mothers."

People: That is exaggeration, but in exaggeration, there is truth.

Pastor: The truth is, God does enfold us through the arms of our parents.

People: And the further truth is, God calls us in the congregation to be not only sisters and brothers to each other, but mothers and fathers to the little ones in our care. For by our baptism, we are made one family.

Pastor: In this worship, let us recall the gift of God's presence through the mothers in our midst and the mothers in our memories.

CHIMES AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

PRAISING

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"For All Mothers Everywhere"
(Sung to the tune of "For the Beauty of the Earth")

by Robert J. Campbell
No. 92

1. For all mothers everywhere,
for God's love brought down to earth
for the joy divine, they share
In the miracle of birth.

Refrain

2. For our mother's loving arms
First to lift us in this life,
strength and nerve in life's alarms,
hands that heal in hurt or strife.

Refrain**Refrain**

Lord of all, to You we raise
this our song of grateful praise!

3. For our mother's listening ears,
for her presence always there,
in our laughter, joy and tears,
and her willingness to share.

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We have gathered in the presence of the God in whom every family in heaven and in earth receives its name.

People: We come, in the prayer that the peace of Christ might dwell in our family relationships.

Pastor: We come to celebrate the role of mothers in our lives.

People: We give thanks for the women who touch us with God's love, and we rejoice and give thanks for the women of yesterday who have been the face of Christ for us.

Pastor: We've come to worship God, who loved us before we were yet born, who knows us even better than we know ourselves, and whose presence never ceases. This is our God. Let's worship together.

OPENING PRAYER

Compassionate God, with a mother's love you care for us. In your arms, we find peace in uncertain times. You feed us with the fruits of compassion, and give us the waters of life to sustain us. You set us in families which to grow and learn from your word. You give us children to teach. In your household, we find a deep peace and the companionship of the faithful. Turn our hearts to you, O God, that we may share your love with all your family. Amen.

INTROIT

"Happy the Home When God is There"

No. 445, vs. 1, 2 & 3

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

"Thy Word"

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

FIRST LESSON

1 John 5:1-6

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Alleluia"

No. 186

"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia"

*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 15:9-17

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

PROCLAIMING

SERMON

“Extravagant Love!”

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

CELEBRATING OUR WOMEN

LITANY OF PRAYER

Pastor: Today, we pray for older moms whose children are grown.

People: Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.

Pastor: We pray for new moms experiencing changes they could not predict.

People: Grant them rest and peace as they trust you for the future.

Pastor: We pray for pregnant women who will soon be moms.

People: Grant them patience and good counsel in the coming months.

Pastor: We pray for moms who face the demands of single parenthood.

People: Grant them strength and wisdom.

Pastor: We pray for moms who enjoy financial abundance.

People: Grant them time to share with their families.

Pastor: We pray for moms who are raising their children in poverty.

People: Grant them relief and justice.

Pastor: We pray for step-moms.

People: Grant them patience and understanding and love.

Pastor: We pray for moms who are separated from their children.

People: Grant them faith and hope.

Pastor: We pray for moms in marriages that are in crisis.

People: Grant them support and insight.

Pastor: We pray for moms who have lost children.

People: Grant them comfort in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: We pray for mothers whose pregnancies have been terminated for whatever reason.

People: Grant them healing and peace.

Pastor: We pray for moms who gave up their children for adoption.

People: Grant them peace and confidence as they trust in your providence.

Pastor: We pray for adoptive mothers.

People: Grant them joy and gratitude for the gift you have provided.

Pastor: We pray for girls and women who think about being moms.

People: Grant them wisdom and discernment.

Pastor: We pray for women who desperately want, or wanted to be moms.

People: Grant them grace to accept your timing and will.

Pastor: We pray for all women who have assumed the mother's role in a child's life.

People: Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.

Pastor: We pray for those people present who are grieving the loss of their mother in the past year.

People: Grant them comfort and hope in Christ's resurrection.

Pastor: Lord, on this day set aside to honor and remember all women, we give you thanks. We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from your hands, and gave it to us. Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth. We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else, we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms.

People: Amen.

WITH THANKSGIVING

Pastor: In celebration of our "Women", we at the Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church wish to bless those in our midst who hold the love of Jesus as a mother in their hearts. All women and girls, grandmothers, mothers, spiritual mothers and future mothers are asked to come forward to receive a flower as a symbol of the blessing that Christ Jesus as given us.
Amen

HYMN

'Faith of Our Mothers"
(Sung to the tune of "Faith of Our Fathers")

No. 710, vs. 1 & 3

1. Faith of our mothers, living still, in cradle and song and bedtime prayer,
In nursery lore and fireside love, Thy presence still pervades the air,
Faith of our mothers, living faith! We will be true to thee to death.
2. Faith of our mothers, loving faith, Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
O may Thy consecration prove, Source of a finer nobler race.
Faith of our mothers, living faith, We will be true to thee till death.
3. Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, For youthful longing, youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision blind our way, Thy providential care without,
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, We will be true to thee till death.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

We thank you, Lord, for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will honor them in everything we do.

HYMN

'Faith of Our Mothers"
(Sung to the tune of "Faith of Our Fathers")

No. 710, v.4

4. Faith of our mothers, Christian faith, In truth beyond our stumbling creeds
Still serve the home and save the church. And breathe Thy spirit through our deeds
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith! We will be true to Thee till death.

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In our Gospel lesson, we heard Jesus teaching his disciples a new song; a love song about Jesus' love for his disciples and for the world. Jesus hoped we would all join in singing and living out their new song of love. Today in giving to others, let us join in this song so that the whole world may hear the beautiful and welcoming melody of God's love.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Heavenly Gift"

J. Calkins

* DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pour your Spirit upon these gifts, O God. Send them into the world as a sign and song of your joyous work of love. Use them to call and welcome into your house of love all who are your friends and our brothers and sisters. Amen

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Jesus speaks again today.

People: This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Pastor: Go in joy and faithfulness, knowing that you, the chosen friends of Jesus, abide in Jesus' love and bear the gift of this love to the world. Amen.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Danish Amen"

No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

No. 557, vs. 1 & 4

POSTLUDE

"These Are the Holy Ten Commands"

J. S. Bach

'WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD'