Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. John

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

\*THE GOSPEL IS READ John 17:6-19

\*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

\*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

**PROCLAIMING** 

SERMON "Hopeful or Hopeless?" Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Gifted with the grace of God, and clothed with power from on high, let us now offer ourselves to the building of God's kingdom.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Praise Be To Thee, Lord Jesus Christ" J.H. Buttstedt

\*DOXOLOGY No. 95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God, we bring to you this offering, and ask you to bless it and use it to make your reign known in our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**SENDING** 

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor: In the presence of Christ, we have gathered.

People: In the grace of Christ, we depart.

Pastor: May God clothe you with power on high.

People: May God put this power to work in each of us.

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Danish Amen" No. 898

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN: "My Hope Is Built" No. 368, vs. 1 & 2

\*POSTLUDE "Recessional In D" J. Mansfield

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

MAY 16, 2021

<u>Welcome Visitors</u>: 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.

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

## MAY 16, 2021 ASCENSION SUNDAY Order of Worship

Order of worshi

**CENTERING** 

PRELUDE "In Thee alone, O Christ, My Lord"

J. Pachelbel

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GATHERING WORDS:** 

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Ruler of all rulers.

People: Exalt the name of Jesus!

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Lord of all lords.

People: Exalt the name of Jesus!

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Name above all names.

People: Exalt the name of Jesus!

HYMN "He Is Exalted" TFWS #2070

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high; I will praise him.
He is exalted, forever exalted and I will praise his name!
He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign; heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.
He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

**PRAISING** 

\*OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT "Crown Him with Many Crowns" No. 327

**CALL TO WORSHIP** 

Pastor: Mystery of God, draw us near.

People: Fill our minds with awe!

Pastor: Wisdom of God, surprise us.

People: Encourage us with hope!

Pastor: Glory of God, shine through our lives.

People: Reveal your power and your glory!

Pastor: In the mystery, the wisdom, the glory of God.

People: Let us worship!

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Unknowable God, on this most unsettling day, you drew Jesus to your side—promising his companions Spirit, power, mission, and purpose; calling his disciples to trust a future that they could not yet see. As we look to Jesus this day, give us the same hope of Spirit, power, mission and purpose, and call to trust a future that we too are yet unable to see. Guide us into your depths, that we may glimpse the Spirit already at work in our lives—revealing your truth and empowering us to bear witness to the risen Christ. We pray this in the name of Jesus, your Mystery, your Wisdom, your Glory. Amen.

INTROIT "Majesty, Worship His Majesty"

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS Diana Spencer

No. 176

**CONFESSING** 

**CALL TO CONFESSION** 

The story of Ascension Day challenges us to seek the presence of the risen Christ in the here and now—in our lives, our community, and our world. Let us pray.

GENERAL CONFESSION

Pastor: When we "look up to heaven" for our answers, and so fail to seek the Spirit at work in our midst—

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: When we forget to repent of our wrongdoing; when we fail to forgive others for mistakes of their own,

and so fail to give witness to the risen Christ-

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: When we doubt the power of your Spirit, which is at work changing hearts and opening minds, and so

fail to embrace relationships of righteousness and peace—

People: Lord, have mercy.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the love of God revealed in Jesus forgives us, heals us, and sets us free to witness to his love in the world.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE "Through It All" No. 507

**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" No. 601 (Refrain only)

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

FIRST LESSON 1.Johns 5:9-13

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.