

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

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JULY 25, 2021 11:15 AM Order of Worship

CENTERING

PRELUDE "Alas, My God" J.G. Walther

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: Be still, so God may speak to you in the silence of your heart.

People: O Lord, we need your peace, there is so little in the world.

Pastor: Seek God's peace, and you will find it. Share it and you will be blessed.

People: Lord, we are ready to receive your peace, and to spread love and peace throughout the world.

PRAISING

OPENING HYMN & BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT "Come, Thou Almighty King"

No. 61

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, let us worship God.

People: Let us kneel before the Father,

Pastor: From whom his whole family,

People: In heaven and on earth,

Pastor: Derives its name.

People: From his glorious riches,

Pastor: He strengthens us with Holy Spirit power within.

People: He grounds us in his love,

Pastor: The love of Christ so wide and long and high and deep,

People: It's beyond our ability to grasp!

Pastor: Grant us, Father, power to know your amazing love

People: And fill us completely with your fullness

Pastor: As we kneel and worship you.

People: Amen!

OPENING PRAYER

Father, we bow our knees before you, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. The glory of this great salvation is yours! Amen.

INTROIT "He Is Lord" No. 177

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Come and stand before God in the truth of who you are.

People: We come, knowing we are not who we should be.

HYMN "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" No. 357, v. 1

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidst me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Pastor: God invites us as we are, not as we should be.

People: We come in all the honesty we can.

HYMN "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" No. 357, v. 2

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot, to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Pastor: When we are honest with God and ourselves, then God can work with us and within us.

People: We open ourselves and our lives to our God.

HYMN "Just As I Am, Without One Plea" No. 357, v. 3

Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

GENERAL CONFESSION

We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. Though we were created to be in communion with you, we have sought to be filled with the wrong kind of power and by things that are passing. We fill our bodies and our lives with things that do not satisfy. We spend our money on things that do not nourish us. We ignore the hunger in our hearts that long to be filled with your love and Spirit. Help us to hear you calling us back to a life that is fulfilled in you. Give us strength to break our bonds to those things that leave us empty. Fill us once more with your Spirit. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God desires to fill us with his power. God rejoices to live within and through us. Receive God's good gifts of love, power and life and share them with others.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"Just As I Am, Without One Plea"

No. 357, v. 5

Just as I am, thou wilt receive wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve, because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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 Ephesians 3:14-21

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 6:1-21

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

PROCLAIMING

SERMON "Taking Our Breath Away" Reverend Russel Shuluga

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

There are so many needs all around us, and a year's salary would hardly make a dent in satisfying all these needs. Our offerings seem like a few loaves and fishes given to feed five thousand. But Jesus, you say give what you have to me in faith.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

In your miraculous hands, what is given to you is blessed and broken and distributed to those who are sitting expectantly at your feet. And needs are satisfied and hearts are grateful and we all stand amazed. Lord Jesus, bless and break not only the money we bring to you, but also our lives that we bring to you, so that the people around us will know the abundance and riches of your grace. In your name alone. Amen.

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: The feeding of the 5,000 grew out of Jesus' tremendous compassion for the crowd.

People: We go into the world, committed to live that compassion.

Pastor: We have a story to tell; it is the story of God's grace.

People: We have a meal to share; it is the nourishment of God's shalom.

Pastor: Live that story, and share that shalom, in all that you say and do. In the name of the triune God, Amen.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Danish Amen" No. 898

*CLOSING HYMN "Help Us Accept Each Other" No. 560, v. 1&4

*POSTLUDE "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" P. Benjamin

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD!