



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

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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.

JULY 4, 2021
6TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
11:15 AM

Order of Worship

CENTERING

PRELUDE

"A Mighty Fortress"

J.G. Walther

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS:

Pastor: God has created us free beings, and we are called to live in the freedom that is God's gift.

People: **We acknowledge that enslavements keep us from the fullness of that freedom and we come to hear again the truth that makes us free.**

Pastor: Jesus the Christ is that truth, and in Him alone is our true and everlasting freedom He Himself has said, *"If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."* (John 8:36)

People: **We come to know Jesus, to honor Him, and to celebrate the life we find in Him.**

HYMN

"His Name is Wonderful"

No. 174

PRAISING

*OPENING HYMN & BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT "Come, Thou Almighty King"
(Sung to the tune of My Country 'Tis of Thee"

No. 697

*Come, thou almighty King,
Help us thy name to sing;
Help us to praise,
Father all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.*

*Come, thou incarnate Word,
Gird on thy might sword;
Our prayer attend.
Come and thy people bless,
And give thy Word success,
And let thy righteousness
On us descend.*

*Come, holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour!
Thou, who almighty art,
Now rule in ev'ry heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.*

*To thee, great One in Three,
Eternal praises be
Hence evermore!
Thy sov'reign majesty
May we in glory see,
And to eternity
Love and adore.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom God has chosen as a heritage.

People: Righteousness exalts a nation; justice is God's will made known.

Pastor: You shall bless the Lord your God for the good land you have been given.

People: Our souls wait for the Lord; God is our help and shield.

Pastor: Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, we are your people.

People: We are also the people of this land.

Pastor: We seek to bring about your kingdom.

People: We also seek to be good citizens of this country.

Pastor: Sometimes it's not hard to reconcile these goals;

People: At other times, we have a hard choice between allegiance to God or Caesar.

Pastor: Help us to put our patriotism in perspective, O God.

People: Remind us that you love peoples of all nations,

All: Amen.

INTROIT

"A Psalmic Response"

Sung to the tune, "Easter People, Raise Your Voices"

No. 304

*In the past our God did guide us
Pilgrims in a new found land.
In his shelter God did hide us
With a strong and saving hand.
Glory, Glory! Hallelujah!
Firm upon his grace we stand!*

*Thank the Lord, his praises voicing
For his promised faithfulness.
All who seek the Lord, rejoicing,
Walk in paths of righteousness.
Glory, glory! Hallelujah!
Shout his praise, his name confess.*

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"

No. 601 (Refrain only)

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

FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

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. Mark

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Mark 6:1-13

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

PROCLAIMING

SERMON

“Worth Dying For”

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION

GENERAL CONFESSION

God of Celebrations and Sorrows, we wave the flag this weekend and our hearts beat with pride at the stirring sounds of the bands. Fireworks emblazon the skies, and families gather for celebrations. But in too many places there is little to celebrate. Our spirits ache for people both far and near who suffer and struggle just to have the basic necessities of life, while we live in abundance. Forgive us when our celebration clouds the needs of others. It is important for us to celebrate, but we must never forget that you have given us a ministry and mission to perform here and now. Help us be mindful of the many ways in which we can reach out to others. By our attitudes and our actions, may we be those who would bring hope, comfort, healing and peace. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The Lord who made the heavens and earth hears our cries and answers our calls. Hope in the Lord whose steadfast love endures with us forever.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“Lord Jesus, We Imagine”

Insert

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD’S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Jesus, Thou My Life Art Ever”

F.W. Zachau

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Breath of Resurrection, Wellspring of Grace, Teacher of Truth, we offer you these gifts as tokens of our obedient hearts and of our desire to do your will. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to you, Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to praise you, Lord.

Almighty God, Creator of the universe, Ruler of all nations, Judge of all flesh, you have placed us, your people, in this land made rich with rivers, forests, mountains, and creatures great and small. Here, you have set before the founders and pioneers of this nation, an opportunity beyond measure to build a realm of justice, peace, and freedom. Here you continue to call your people, freed from the law and baptized into Christ Jesus, to be a sign of your reign in all the world. For such a place, such a vision and such a calling, we give you thanks, praying we may ever join afresh the dreams you set before us as we join with your people in every land on earth and with all the company of heaven in your unceasing praise.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Above all, we give you thanks for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, who sends us into the world to declare the good news of your kingdom to every creature: Justice to all peoples, good news to the poor, release for prisoners, sight for the blind, and freedom for the oppressed. On the night before he was arrested and sentenced to death by the authorities of his own nation, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you." When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the covenant poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins." And so we remember and proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

We pour ourselves out before you in praise and thanksgiving, a holy and living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us.

So pour out your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make Christ known to us in the breaking of this bread, and the sharing of this cup. Renew our fellowship in him, that we may be for the world his body poured out for the world at this time in this nation, and at that great banquet in the fullness of your new creation where justice flows like rivers, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, where none shall hunger or thirst, neither shall they learn war anymore.

By him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG)

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Sung to the tune: "The Church's One Foundation" No. 545
**Renewed by living waters, renewed by living bread,
May we Your sons and daughters, by Your own hand be led.
Accept the gifts we offer, receive the lives we owe.
Unite us in Your service; may seeds of justice grow!** (Ruth Duck touch Holiness, 238)

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

People: Christ's blood sets us free to be people of God. Hallelujah!

Pastor: Give glory to God, whose strong hand and mighty arm have gained the victory.

People: Christ's blood sets us free to be people of God. Hallelujah!

Pastor: In every circumstance, we are more than conquerors through the One who loved us.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Pastor: In Christ Jesus, God had fashioned us to do those good things which will glorify the Father in heaven.

People: Christ's blood sets us free to be the people of God. Hallelujah!

Pastor: Sisters and brothers, we are not dismissed. We are not just free to go. Christ sends us! Go in the power of the Spirit to love and serve the Lord. Go to help and heal in all you do. Thanks be to God.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Danish Amen"

No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN:

"For This Land in All Its Wonder"

Insert: CWM Rhondda

*POSTLUDE

"Heroic March"

D.F. Callender

'WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD'