



**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.

**OCTOBER 3, 2021  
19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY  
YEAR B  
ORDER OF WORSHIP – 11:15AM**

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**CELEBRATION THROUGH GATHERING**

PRELUDE

"O Lord, Look Down From Heaven, Behold"  
*(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)*

J. Pachelbel

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS:

Pastor: Today we gather around God's table from near and far

**People: We are the People of God!**

Pastor: Though we differ in language, custom, and tradition

**People We are brothers and sisters in Christ!**

Pastor: For there is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism

**People We are One in God's Spirit!**

Pastor: We are one and together we remember our Lord Jesus

**People For we are the people of Redemption!**

HYMN

"Bind Us Together"

TFWS No. 2226

**CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION**

\*OPENING HYMN & BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

"In Unity We Lift Our Song"

TFWS No. 2221

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor On this day, we are not a single congregation,  
**People but part of all believers everywhere, every place.**  
Pastor We are no longer divided into “included” or “excluded” children; no longer divided into the “haves” or the “have nots,” no longer divided by gender, ethnicity, or ability.  
**People Christ has broken down all the dividing walls that we in our sinfulness have erected to exploit others. We are now all one in Christ Jesus. We are included.**  
Pastor We are all included: not by our merits, not by our actions, nor our great sacrifices. Gathered together, they are nothing compared to the merits, the actions, the sacrifice of Christ.  
**People: We are all included: not because of gifts we bring, not because of our brilliant theological understandings, not because we are good enough to be considered worthy to even enter God’s presence.**  
Pastor: We are all included, no matter what other people believe about us, no matter how we even view ourselves, but because we matter to Jesus.  
**People: So we, all the people of the earth, come to the Christ’s table because he has included us and has reserved a seat for each of us.**  
Pastor: May Christ bless the worldwide communion of His Church this day.

## OPENING PRAYER

**Holy God, we have feelings of wonder when we realize you have included us at your Table and that we will gather with Christians round the world. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all. Lord, we give you our praise. Amen**

## INTROIT

“One Bread, One Body”

No. 620

## CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

## CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

### 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

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

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 10:2-16

### \*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.  
**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

## CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAIMING

### SERMON

“What God Has Joined Together, Let No One Separate”

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Almighty God, from the ends of the earth you have gathered us around Christ's Holy Table.

**People: We come to feast together.**

Pastor: Have mercy on Your church, troubled and divided.

**People: Renew us and make us one.**

### GENERAL CONFESSION

Eternal God of all people and places, we confess to you our lack of oneness with our human brothers and sisters as we begin this celebration of unity in Christ. We have closed our ears to voices of pain, and of wisdom, when they speak in accents other than our own. We have lacked the vision to see that people living in places we call foreign are as surely your children as we are. Our sensibilities are jarred even by the way our nearest neighbors express their faith in Christ. We cling to the pride of nation and denomination as if we had a special claim on truth and leadership. Gracious God, forgive us, and renew a right spirit within us, a spirit of compassion, understanding, and humility. Fill us with the vision of unity in Christ, and enable us to incarnate Christ's love, so that we may worthily partake in the body of Christ and the wine of the new covenant. Amen.

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The good news in Christ is that God is more willing to forgive our sins than we are to acknowledge them.

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"It Is Well With My Soul"

No. 377 V. 3

*My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross,  
And I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.*

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We approach the table today but we don't approach it alone. We approach it on this World Communion Sunday with Christians around the world, in congregations large and small, speaking every language and one language. And so part of our approach this morning is to remember in our offering our connection to the work of the church in every corner of God's creation. Truly, God has blessed us with the rich, varied, and abundant gifts of creation. From God's abundance, let us also give abundantly.

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

### THE OFFERTORY

### \*DOXOLOGY

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, you create more than we could ever hope to return. You share more than we could ever hope to deserve. And yet, we pray, accept these humble gifts. May they honor and glorify you in all creation, and may they empower us for the work of witness and service, for the sake of justice, and for the sake of peace, now and forever. Amen.

## CELEBRATION THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

### THE INVITATION

This table is for all of us, near and far, high and low, east and west and north and south. This table is for all of us, but it is not our table. It's not a United Methodist table. It's not an American table. It's God's table, for all of us, and it's a table of grace. So come and take your place at the table. You are welcome, you are invited, and you are called: come, let us share this meal together.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: May the God of all be with you!

**People: May that God be with you, as well!**

Pastor: We will join our hearts with all of God's people, offering them to the God who loves us.

**People: God fills our hearts, our lives, with overflowing grace.**

Pastor: With voices in every tongue, of every faith, we will sing our praises to God.

**People: We offer glory and thanksgiving to our God.**

Pastor: And so, together we proclaim:

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

## SANCTUS

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

## HYMN

"Be Present at Our Table, Lord"

No. 621

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he 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 it 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."

## HYMN

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

No. 629 (Refrain only)

***You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.  
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.***

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.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break together, and the cup we share together, may retell our common stories together and reshape our common bonds together, and remember our common grace together, in the communion of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ, the one in whose life and death you have torn down our divisions. And so may we be one with all who share this feast, on this day, of all days, with all your children at every corner of your table. May we share this abundant cup with all those who thirst for your justice. May we share this abundant bread with all those who hunger for your righteousness, May we be united with every corner of your story, united in hope, united in vision, united in purpose, united in ministry in every place. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We thank you O God, for making one people out of many. Thank you for your love in Jesus, who includes us at his table, a people forgiven. Look upon us as we leave this feast, that the union we have shared here not be forgotten, but be used to strengthen our bonds with all your people. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

As this bread we ate is Christ's body for us, God sends us from this table to be the body of Christ in all the world. He sends us with a spirit of courage, a spirit of power and love, that we may be witnesses in all creation to the unending story of God's word breathing life into the dust. May God keep us faithful, and fruitful, and hopeful, and peaceful, until we come at last to the one table of his Kingdom, to feast with all His saints in the joy of God's eternal realm, with God and with God's Word, through Christ and in Christ, the one who came for us, died for us, and rose for us.



### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Danish Amen"

No. 898

### \*RECESSINAL HYMN

"Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name

No. 663, vs. 1 & 2

## POSTLUDE

"By The Rivers Of Babylon"

M. Dupre

**'WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD'**