



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.

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021
Order of Worship
15th Sunday after Pentecost

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CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Sun Of My Soul

G. Parker

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

GATHERING WORDS:

Pastor: Remember God's gracious abundance and give thanks.

People: We remember Christ's call upon our lives to be faithful.

Pastor: Open yourself to the Holy Spirit. For this is the time of worship.

HYMN

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

No. 334

Pastor: Come let us praise the God of love.

People: Let us bring our hearts to God. AMEN

HYMN

"Spirit Song"

No. 347, v. 2

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*OPENING HYMN & BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT “The Mountain of Our God Shall Stand”
(Sung to the tune of “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”, No. 110)

1. The mountain of our God shall stand,
Unmoved, remain forever.
God’s care shall spread o’er all the land,
And hold us all together.
Mount Zion is the name,
From age to age the same.
Our trust is in its Lord,
Who keeps us by his word,
And claims us as his people.
2. The sceptre of ungodly ways,
Would rule to overpower us;
But, to our God belongs all praise:
Thwarts those who would devour us.
God’s promise will prevail;
His righteousness not fail.
The gifts God has in store,
Ours shall be evermore,
And we shall be his people.
3. God help us in our earthly strife --
Who render faithful service;
Who keep the covenant through life --
Let nothing ill unnerve us.
Lead evil ones away.
They cannot win the day.
Remove them from our sight.
Lead on, O God of might.
Inspire all your people.
4. Security, God’s people know.
We trust God’s word to cheer us,
As we, unto God’s temple go,
God always will be near us.
Abounding, full of grace,
We, there, behold his face.
Although the way be long,
His Spirit keeps us strong.
God gives peace to his people.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We gather here to worship God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

People: We gather surrounded by God’s Holy Spirit, who encourages us to walk faithfully with Christ .

Pastor: Praise be to God, whose goodness and mercy fill our days.

People: Praise be to God, whose ways lead to peace and love.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, we call upon your name, for we know that your name and favor are more precious than human riches. You hate wickedness and abhor the neglect of your people. You call us to righteousness, to reach out to others with justice and mercy. You teach us right from wrong, that we may truly live in your grace. In the shadow of that grace, we offer compassion and mercy to others. Abide with us this day that we may serve you forevermore. Amen.

INTROIT

“His Name Is Wonderful”

No. 174

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

Proverbs 22: 1-2, 8-9, 22-23

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 7:24-37

*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's in a Name"

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This table is open to all who recognize Jesus Christ as healer and redeemer. This table is open to all who work to bring God's Kingdom here on earth. No one is turned away because of life circumstances. No one is barred from this table. No one seeking God's abundant grace and mercy is turned aside. We see before us the abundance that a life of faith offers as we respond to God's everlasting mercy in prayer and deed.

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess to God who we are and ask God to make us who we need to become.

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Pastor: We come into the presence of the one who created us all as brothers and sisters.

People: We confess that we treat others more like strangers than like members of the family.

Pastor: We come into the presence of the One who came to seek and to save even the least of all creation.

People: We confess that we treat the poor and powerless as if they had no standing.

Pastor: We come into the presence of the One who ate with sinners, touched the untouchables, and loved the unlovable.

People: We confess that we shun those who are not like ourselves, and we look down in disgust at those who don't meet our standards of conduct.

Pastor: We come into the presence of the One who created us to be the very image and presence of God.

People: We confess that we often do not look like the compassion of God as we have seen that in Jesus of Nazareth.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: We come into the presence of the One who offers love and forgiveness even to people like us. In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and empowered by the Spirit to live as God's ambassadors in this world.

People: As God's forgiven people, we pledge ourselves to seek anew the image of God in our lives by the way we treat others, especially those the world calls the least.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"Amazing Grace"

No. 378, vs. 1 & 4

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We who have been richly blessed are called to share that blessing with the world. Give freely in the joy of serving our neighbor and your God.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

All that we do is in your holy name, O God. Even as we share the riches of our labors, may we continue to honor your name in all that we do. Bless these gifts given freely, that your justice and mercy may prevail in a weak and weary world. AMEN.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the God of love and grace.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, Creator of the heavens and the earth and all who dwell therein, we give you thanks for all that surrounds us. We thank you for making us but a little lower than the angels, children of your grace. We are grateful for your mercy, forgiving our human pride and our blindness to those in need. We rejoice in the hope and salvation found in the person of Jesus Christ, who shared our earthly suffering and joy. We remember Christ's death, celebrate with joy Christ's resurrection, and seek to follow in Christ's way, serving those around us. In the steadfast comfort of the Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to your service as we unite our voices to glorify you.

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

At this table we recall the night when Jesus was at table with his friends. As they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it. He gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take, eat, This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same manner, Jesus also took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood .Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith.

By partaking at this table, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection and await Christ's return.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup. May we be strengthened through your Holy Spirit to be the body of Christ, your servant people, faithful in all things and humble in our service to you and your people. Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Go forth to love one another. Be rich in faith and serve one another in all joy and humility. And may the power of God our Creator, Christ our Salvation, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us now and forever. AMEN.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Danish Amen"

No. 898

*CLOSING HYMN

"Now Let Us From This Table Rise"

No. 634, vs. 1 & 4

POSTLUDE

"Let Your Light So Shine"

T. Birchwood

'WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD'