



NOVEMBER 28, 2021

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Pastor Russel contact information:

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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 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.

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 11:15 AM

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CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

“Hail To The Lord’s Anointed”

H. Balcombe

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*OPENING HYMN & BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT“ All Earth is Waiting” No. 210, vs. 1, 2 & 4

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: No one in Bethlehem was prepared for the coming of the Lord.

People: During this Advent Season, we have the opportunity to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

Pastor: When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, no one recognized him as the Messiah.

People: We gather here to worship Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Pastor: Come, let us worship on this first Sunday of Advent.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy Source of life and hope, as we come together this day, open our ears to hear, open our eyes to see, and open our hearts to love, that we may come to know your ways and follow your paths. Help us grow in love for one another, and for all creation, as we prepare for the coming of the one who calls us to turn from our false gods to you, Holy One, the true source of our salvation. Amen.

INTROIT

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

No. 203, v. 1

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

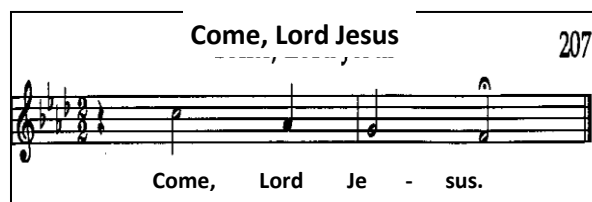
BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath we shall remember God’s promise. Listen to the words of the Prophet Isaiah: The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing. (Isaiah 9:1-2) Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may be always ready to welcome him.

People: Sung Response



Pastor: That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God’s love.

People: Sung Response

Pastor: That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin.

People: Sung Response

Pastor: That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ.

People: Sung Response

Pastor: That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus.

People: Sung Response

Pastor: Let us now pray for God's blessings upon us and upon this wreath. Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ. He is Emmanuel, the hope of all people; he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us; he is the Savior of every nation. O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you. Bless us and our Advent Wreath. May the light that shines forth from these candles illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas; may the light that shines forth from these candles illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child. We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.

All: Amen.

People: Sung Response

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY (The Candle of Hope)

Pastor: Hope in the midst of hopelessness—life can occasionally throw us for a loop. But the message of Advent and Christmas is that hope can be born when you least expect it.

People: In a world where so many have lost hope, we call upon the Lord of hope to come.

Pastor: In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Hope into our world. We await the birth of the Christ-child, the coming of God into our lives in a new way.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

HYMN

(to the Tune "Away in a Manger"
*Light one candle and whisper a prayer
For hope for a world often lost in despair.
Light one Advent candle and wait for the morn
When new birth will happen and light will be born.*

No. 217

Pastor: Take a deep breath and reflect on what gives you hope. (Silence)

PRAYER

Holy God, we pray for the hope that is in Christ to come into our lives in a new way. May we become hope that is alive in the world. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN OF PRAYER

"Prophets Told Us, 'Pay Attention!'" Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Regent Square 8.7.8.7.8.7 ("Angels, from the Realms of Glory")

*Prophets told us, "Pay attention! God is working in the land.
Lo, the days are surely coming; seek the justice God has planned!
Seek the signs of your redemption; hear God's word and understand!"*

*Christ, you taught us: "Pay attention! Nature's signs are sure and clear:
When the trees grow leaves and blossom, summertime is almost here."
So it is in God's good kingdom; be alert; God's reign is near!*

*As we welcome your salvation, all around we see distress;
There is trouble in the nations! There is greed and wickedness;
As we trust in your redemption, may we live your righteousness.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE "Prophets Told Us, 'Pay Attention!'" Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Regent Square 8.7.8.7.8.7 ("Angels, from the Realms of Glory")
*May we work for what you call for; may we labor for your reign.
Families cry out at the border; children suffer grief and pain.
May your church, committed, prayerful, work for justice in your name.*

*Christ, you taught us: "Pay attention!" So we humbly serve and pray:
May we gladly live your kingdom in a world that's gone astray.
May the hope of our salvation guide the things we do and say.*

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor: Prepare the way of the Lord.

People: **We listen for the word of God.**

CHORAL RESPONSE

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
*"O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord"*

No. 234 (refrain)

FIRST LESSON

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Jerimiah 33:14-16

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
"Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!"

No. 238 (refrain)

GOSPEL LESSON

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of St. Mark.

Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Mark 13:24-37

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

The Gospel of the living Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

"Hopelessness to Hopefulness"

Pastor Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God's love for us knows no bounds. In grateful response, may our gifts to others abound.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

To the Tune "What Child Is This"

*"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary."*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Giver of all good things, as we offer these gifts to you, open our eyes to see more clearly all that we have been given and all that we have to give. Stretch our capacity to give of ourselves; our love, our companionship, and our material resources, wherever they are needed. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: In the midst of loss, hopelessness, and despair,

People: we will practice hope!

Pastor: By doing the hard work of healing,

People: we will practice hope!

Pastor: By forgiving again and again and again,

People: we will practice hope!

Pastor: By planting seeds and trees and new life,

People: we will practice hope!

Pastor: By reaching out to others who are suffering,

People: we will practice hope!

Pastor: By cherishing your own life,

People: we will practice hope!

Pastor: By living in the perspective of God's eternity,

People: we will practice hope!

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"The First Noel"

No. 245 (Refrain only)

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"

No. 204 (sing twice)

*POSTLUDE

"Savior Of The Nations, Come"

J.S. Bach

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD



Barbara Thaw—diagnosed with breast cancer
Kim Viehland—recovery from hand surgery
Judy Spencer Baker - chemo treatments/continued prayers
Nanette & Len, husband & wife (friends of Ginnie) - recovering from automobile accident
Annie MacLemore—serious health problems, most recently cancer
Afghanistan refugees
Diamond Carter (friend of Richard's) - heart issues and a collapsed lung
Prayers that the violence will stop
Gary (Ginnie's son) - continued good health
Dick Healey (friend of Ginnie & Sue) - diagnosed with esophageal cancer
Richard - continued prayers
Phyllis (Dai's aunt) - improved health issues
Phillis E. (former MAUMC education director) - cancer issues
Pastor Russel W. Shuluga
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian — Pittsburgh District Superintendent
Those who are traveling
Family & friends of those who have COVID
Family & friends of those who have passed away from COVID
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
Those in silence needing prayers



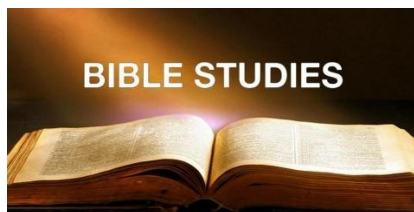
Do you have a Prayer Request? Contact Pastor Russel at (412) 735-5072 or email Shulugarussel@gmail.com or contact the church office at office@mifflinavenue.org or (412) 731-2511.

Do You Have a prayer request?

Prayer Request Cards have been updated. They will no longer be located in the pew rack. They will be on the table when you enter the big red doors entrance or on the table when you enter through the glass door entrance. You may also ask the greeter for one. Please give completed Prayer Request Card to greeter or Pastor Russel prior to the Sunday service. You may also place completed card in the offering plate. If you have any question, please contact Pastor Russel or the church office.



Robert Thaw – December 3rd



Advent Bible Study on Zoom – **at 7:00PM** - 4 weeks led by Pastor Russel – **December 1st, December 8th, December 15th, December 22nd.**

Bible Study – In Person - held in the John Wesley Room and on Zoom – led by Larry Viehland – **at 7:30PM – December 2nd, December 9th and December 16th. Two-week break, then resumes on Wednesday, January 6th, 2022**



Adult Sunday School – join for Advent Study – Sundays at 9:45AM

Poinsettia order deadline is December 5th. Forms in back of sanctuary.

Sunday, December 5th – Deadline to bring in toy donations.

Sunday, December 5th – 11:15AM - Second Sunday of Advent – Communion

Sunday, December 12th – 11:15AM - Hanging of the Greens Service

Sunday, December 19th – 10:30AM - Combined Service at South Avenue UMC – Refreshments will follow service.

Please note that there will not be a Mifflin Avenue service or Zoom service on Sunday, December 19th.



November Mission Opportunity

“Toys For Tots”

US Marine Corps

The November Mission Opportunity will be to collect **NEW unwrapped toys** for Toys For Tots.

Mifflin Avenue has been approved as a local drop off location for the area.

Deadline to bring in your toy donations to the church is TODAY Sunday, December 5th.

Please ask your friends, family and neighbors to donate toys for the children. Children in the Wilkinsburg area will receive toys from this collection.

Bring NEW unwrapped toy/toys to the church on Sunday morning If you would like to make a monetary donation and have Mary shop for you, **(Deadline to make a monetary donation is Sunday, November 28th)** make your check payable to MAUMC and write "Toys For Tots" in the memo line of your check or on your envelope. Put in the Sundays offering or mail to the church. Any question, contact Mary at the church office.

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

WHAT IS UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY?

One of the major challenges that students face is the lack of financial support to attain a college education. Worrying about expenses adds to the already existing anxieties youth experience and it may take away from their ability to excel in their studies or activities. But for students attending United Methodist Churches, we extend a hand to help them accomplish their career goals.

For more than 100 years, United Methodists have been supporting their students' educational needs through a special offering. The funds received from the offering go into the United Methodist Student Loan Fund to underwrite scholarships for United Methodist students. Scholarships are awarded to deserving United Methodist students annually.

Supporting this ministry allows us to invest in future missionaries, engineers, teachers, pastors, film producers and so many other careers. Our students are depending on your support.

When you give to the special offering on United Methodist Student Day, you invest in a channel of hope for young leaders who bring their Wesleyan values into their schools and professions.

For example, Katrina Lewis says she struggled with her self-worth when her parents divorced. "I saw myself as a mistake and unloved," she recalled. Then her mother introduced the children to First United Methodist Church, St. Mary's, Pennsylvania, which, she said, "completely changed the trajectory of my life." When she was preparing for college, Katrina's pastor and church family encouraged her to apply for a Gift of Hope Scholarship, funded by the United Methodist Student Day offering. "Their belief in me and what God has in store for my life," she said, "empowered me to apply, knowing I could not fund college alone." Receiving the scholarship permitted her to follow God's direction for her life. "I know that God is calling me to team with him in restoring his beautiful creation," she said. Katrina is pursuing a bachelor of science degree in statistics and predictive analytics at Robert Morris University, Moon Township, Pennsylvania. Her classwork and extracurricular experiences have given Katrina a deeper appreciation of natural resources and "our collective obligation to protect and defend those resources," she said. "The scholarship," she said, "has blessed me beyond comprehension. God has used that money in my life to truly transform my college experience and allow me to pursue opportunities I never thought possible.

A scholarship provides true hope and testimony to God's generosity and goodness."

Thank you for your generous gifts that give students a financial boost to help them realize their dreams while giving them a spiritual boost knowing that United Methodist congregations are supporting them and their dreams.