



JANUARY 2, 2022

Epiphany Sunday

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Pastor Russel contact information:

Phone: (412) 735-5072

Email: Shulugarussel@gmail.com

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 an usher 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:15AM

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

“From East To West”

J.G. Walther

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING WORDS

Pastor: In the darkest night, a star shines. Follow this star, for it will lead to overwhelming joy.

HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”
*Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar,
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen His natal star*

No. 220, v. 3

*Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King*

CHIMES AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“We Three Kings”
*We three kings of Orient are
bearing gifts we traverse afar.
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.*

No. 254

*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect Light.*

*Glorious now behold Him arise;
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.*

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect Light*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Pastor: Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ!

People: Let us fall on our knees in his honor! Let us lift our voices in praise of his name!

OPENING PRAYER

God of light and love, shine upon our lives, as we welcome the mystery of your love. Guide us toward your true gift, for our hearts long to encounter with the holy. Quiet our expectations, that we might be surprised by the unexpected. Open our eyes that we might find you in unanticipated places. Shine your light upon us, that we might see you clearly, and recognize your face in all people. Amen.

INTROIT

"The First Noel"

No. 245, vs. 3, 4, & 5

**3 And by the light of that same star
three Wise Men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.**

[Refrain]

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.**

**4 This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]**

**5 Then entered in those Wise Men three,
full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]**

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

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"

No. 234 (refrain)

"O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord"

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

No. 238 (refrain)

"Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!"

*GOSPEL LESSON

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew

Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

No. 238 (refrain)

"Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!"

*GOSPEL LESSON

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of St. John

Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

The Gospel of the living Christ.

Glory to You, oh Lord

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

Pastor Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

GENERAL CONFESSION

All-glorious God, we have faith in Jesus Christ, and love towards your people, yet we are not without blemish in your sight, not full of love, wisdom, and other spiritual blessings you still have available for us. Our love is not as inclusive as yours, and there is much we need to learn. Give us clearer vision of all that we are meant to be, so that by becoming fulfilled, we may increase the glory that is properly revealed in Jesus Christ, your beloved. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: Friends, hear the Good News! The liberator has come to free us from all proud pretenses.

People: The Christ has come in Jesus of Nazareth to show us the undeserved favor of God.

Pastor: Friends, believe the Good News!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

No. 230, v. 4

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The wise travelers brought their gifts to honor the promised child. Let us bring the gifts of our lives, in gratitude for God’s bright light of love.

HYMN OF INVITATION

“What Child Is This?”

No. 219, v. 3

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him.
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.*

THE LORD’S OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Of The Father’s Love Begotten”

F. Peeters

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Giver of every gift, source of all goodness and light, we open the treasure chests of our hearts before you. We offer you gifts of gold, to care for those in need. We offer you gifts of love, to serve a suspicious world. Bless our gifts and our lives and use them to love and heal the world. Amen.

*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.***

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our God.

It is right to give our joyful thanks and praise.

We thank you, creating God for the great light of your love. When you called forth creation, you said, "Let there be light" and you saw that it was good. You divided the light from darkness and created the sun, moon, and stars to light the sky. It was good, as all your creation was good.

When your people suffered in bondage and oppression, you led them out of slavery. You lit the way to freedom with a pillar of cloud by day and pillar of fire by night. You gave them your commandments to light their way, as they strove to become a community of justice and righteousness.

When your people turned from your light, you were still faithful, loving them always. You sent prophets to call them back to the world's true light. And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we sing your praises.

SANCTUS

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.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

You sent Jesus to us, the light of the world. He promised that those who followed him would never walk in darkness, but would have the light of life. The light of his life shone on all people, revealing the truth of your love. He fed the hungry, cured the sick, ate with sinners, and proclaimed your truth.

Before he was betrayed, he gathered with his friends for a meal. Taking the bread, he gave thanks to you and broke it. He gave it to his friends, saying, "Take and eat. I am with you now and forever. Let this meal feed you. Remember me as you eat."

Then he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it with his followers, saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant, given for the forgiveness of sins. It is a gift for you and for all people. It is my love offered for you. Drink of this and remember me."

And so, as we remember Jesus, light of the world, teacher, healer, guide, and friend; we offer ourselves into Christ's service, that we too might radiate God's light, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts of bread and cup, that they may be for us the living presence of Jesus Christ, light of the world, our hope for all creation. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may become the body of Christ, as we serve creation and reflect the light of your love. Make us one with Jesus, and one with each other, as we walk in the light, singing your praises. Through Jesus Christ, light of the world, and through the Holy Spirit, radiance divine, all praise is yours, eternal God, now and forever, world without end. Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

“Give Thanks”

TFWS 2036

*Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.
Give son.*

*And now let the weak say, “I am strong;”
let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”
And us.” Give us.”*

Give thanks!-----

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

As you follow the star on your journey, don’t look for the holy in places of power and prestige. Instead, pay attention to the ordinary, the quiet places. There, may you be overcome with joy, and share your gifts with creation.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“The First Noel”

No. 245 (Refrain)



*RECESSIONAL HYMN

“We Are Marching”

TFWS No. 2235-b

*We Are Marching In The Light Of God
We Are Marching In The Light Of God
We Are Marching In The Light Of God
We Are Marching In The Light Of God
We Are Marching Marching
We Are Marching Oh Oh
We Are Marching In The Light Of God
We Are Marching Marching
We Are Marching Oh Oh
We Are Marching In The Light Of God*

*POSTLUDE

“Oh Rejoice, All Christians Loudly”

T. Beck

“WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD”



Aubri (Ginnie's granddaughter) – diagnosed with breast cancer
Jan (Diana's cousin) - passed away
Irene Chenot (Barbara's friend's mom) - cancer
Harriett, Karen, Jon (Diana Spencer's cousins) - COVID
Those affected by the tornadoes
Joe (Ginnie & Sue's cousin) - diagnosed with myeloma cancer
Jackie, Laura Lynn, Mary, Christina, Tom (friends of Ginnie's) - needing prayers
Richard Wilson - needing prayers
Barbara Thaw -diagnosed with breast cancer
Kim Viehland—recovery from hand surgery
Judy Spencer Baker - 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
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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

John Mitchell (Lachlan) – January 5th – Happy 7th Birthday



JANUARY MISSION OPPORTUNITY WPAUMC CAMPING INITIATIVE

The January Mission Opportunity is to support the Western Pennsylvania Annual United Methodist Conference Camping Initiative.

Your donations will help to make repairs and updates to the camps and retreat locations and to provide scholarships for children to attend camp.

To make a monetary donation to support the Camping Initiative, make your check payable to MAUMC and write “January Mission” in the memo line of your check or on your envelope.

WPAUMC Camping and Retreat Ministries serves over 20,000 people each year through camps, programs, retreats and other ministry opportunities. These ministries are broken out between six unique locations -*At The Lake Ministries, Camp Allegheny, Healthy Village Learning Institute, Jumonville, Olmsted Manor Retreat Center, Wesley Woods* - that serve faith development.

For more information about the Camping Initiative, visit this link about Camping and Retreat Ministries <https://www.wpaumc.org/camping>



Adult Sunday School – Every Sunday at 9:45AM in the John Wesley Room

Thursday Bible Study – Resumes on Thursday, January 6th, at 7:30pm in the John Wesley room and on zoom. Led by Larry Viehland



Please stay after worship, if you are able, and help take down the decorations.