



April 17, 2022

Easter Sunday

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 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. Pastor Russel has an open-door policy. Anyone wishing to speak to the pastor, is welcomed and encouraged to call. He is available 24/7.

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CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE	‘Christ the Lord is Risen Today’ Barbara B. Kinyon	Bell Choir
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GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: Dear Friends in Christ, the night is over! The morning is here!
People: Christ is risen, risen as he said!
 Pastor: Sadness has vanished! Tears are no more!
People: Death has fled! Life is victorious!
 Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made:
People: We rejoice! We are glad in it!
 Pastor: Come, assemble for the Feast of Life,
People: the Feast of the Kingdom of God!
All: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

HYMN OF TRIUMPH	‘Ring the Bells for Christ Is Risen’ Douglas E. Wagner/Charlotte Lee	Bell Choir
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LIGHTING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."
People: Jesus said, "I am the resurrection of the world."
 Pastor: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.
People: Christ is our light!
 Pastor: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” No. 302, vs. 1-4

***Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!***

***Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!***

***Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!***

***Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!***

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: It happened! Jesus was absolutely right!

People: **Christ is risen! It was as he said it would be!**

HYMN 'Up from the Grace He Arose' No. 322 (Refrain only)

***Up from the grave he a-rose, (he arose) with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
(o'er his foes)
he a-rose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives for-ever, with his saints to
reign.
He a-rose! (he a-rose) He a-rose! (he arose) Hal-le-lu-jah! Christ a-rose!***

Pastor: Darkness is gone! Brightness reigns!

People: **God's love has poured over us, bringing us joy and hope!**

HYMN 'Up from the Grace He Arose' No. 322 (Refrain only)

***Up from the grave he a-rose, (he arose) with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
(o'er his foes)
he a-rose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives for-ever, with his saints to
reign.
He a-rose! (he a-rose) He a-rose! (he arose) Hal-le-lu-jah! Christ a-rose!***

Pastor: We are free from fear and doubt!

People: **We are free to celebrate and dance and shout the Good News "Christ is Risen!"**

HYMN 'Up from the Grace He Arose' No. 322 (Refrain only)

***Up from the grave he a-rose, (he arose) with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
(o'er his foes)
he a-rose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives for-ever, with his saints to
reign.
He a-rose! (he a-rose) He a-rose! (he arose) Hal-le-lu-jah! Christ a-rose!***

EASTER PRAYER

Holy and Living God, like a tomb's darkness that gives way to light, open us this day to newness of life; open us to your love, to your acceptance, to your forgiveness, to your peace; open us to one another, and to the possibilities you have in store for us. Give us hope for the future and a passion for life here and now. We pray in the name of the One who destroyed death, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

INTROIT 'Come, Come! Everybody Worship' Children's Choir
Natalie Sleeth, Agape, Carol Stream

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

ANTHEM

'My Lord, What a Morning'
Martha Lynn Thompson

Bell Choir

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Pastor: Living Christ, prepare us once more to hear your resurrection message.

People: Open our hearts to the joyous gift of life shared with us this day. And open our minds to your presence, each and every day.

CHORAL RESPONSE

'Crown Him with Many Crowns'

No. 327, v. 4

*Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou has died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.*

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 15: 19-26

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.

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

People: and also with you.

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. John.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

John 20: 1-18

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GOSPEL RESPONSE

'Thine Be the Glory'

No. 308 V. 1

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where the body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

‘Deadness’

Rev. Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The gift of God is here with us, for the presence of the risen Christ is with us always. In gratitude, may we offer our gifts, as we give thanks to the Lord, who is good. Truly, God's steadfast love endures forever.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

‘God Gave To Us This Glorious Day’

J.G. Walther

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance, we offer these gifts to you in thanksgiving and joy for the presence of the living Christ. May these gifts bring new life to those both near and far. And may we offer ourselves in service to you and to one another. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH RESPONDING

*Easter Peace

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, God's love pours out from the grave of despair.

People: The Risen One comes with hands full of love.

Pastor: He greets us with peace the world does not know,

People: he gives us peace the world cannot give.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ's peace is ours forever!

HYMN

‘Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name’

No. 663 V. 3 & 4

***Grant us thy peace through-out our earthly life;
peace to thy church from error and from strife;
peace to our land, the fruit of truth and love;
peace in each heart, thy Spirit from a-bove.***

**Thy peace in life, the balm of every pain;
thy peace in death, the hope to rise a-gain;
then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.**

*SHARING THE EASTER PEACE

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Dance, celebrate, sing, and shout for joy! Christ is Risen and He goes before us, into this world of fear and pain.

People: He has called us to bring the Good News of healing and hope, of redemption.

Pastor: Go in peace and feel the presence of the Risen Lord with you, now and forever.

People: AMEN.



*OUR EASTER RESPONSE

'Because He Lives'

No. 364 V. 1 & 3

**God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
he came to love, heal, and forgive;
he lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.**

**Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
because he lives, all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because he lives.**

**And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns.**

**Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
because he lives, all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because he lives.**

POSTLUDE

'Praise To The Lord'

J.G. Walter

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO WORLD



Koesel family—passing of Stephen
Hope Gaebel - medical issues
Sandy Nelson - prayers needed
People of Ukraine
Peacemakers
Barbara Thaw -diagnosed with breast cancer
Judy Spencer Baker - continued prayers
Richard Wilson - continued prayers
Annie MacLemore – heart attack & complications
Earl Saunders Jr. - Stroke/COVID
Aubri (Ginnie’s granddaughter) – diagnosed with breast cancer
Irene Chenot (Barbara's friend's mom) - cancer
Joe (Ginnie & Sue’s cousin) - diagnosed with myeloma 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
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



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**A WELCOMING, WORSHIPPING, WITNESSING, CARING, LEARNING COMMUNITY
OF FAITH**