



**May 8, 2022**

**4th Sunday of Easter**

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**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.

## Order of Worship – 11:15 AM

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### CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

'In Thee Alone, O Christ My Lord'

J. Pachelbel

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS:

We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God, who, like a mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally, teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need. Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!

CHIMES AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

### CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

'Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us'

No. 381 V. 1 & 4

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God is our shepherd. We can depend on God.

People: **God brings us hope and peace.**

Hymn

'Shepherd Me, O God'

TFWS 2058

***Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
Beyond my fears, from death into life.***

Pastor: Through trials and tribulations, God continually provides abundantly for us.

People: **Even when we doubt and turn away, God is constant in God's faithful love.**

Hymn

'Shepherd Me, O God'

TFWS 2058

***Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
Beyond my fears, from death into life.***

Pastor: God's love continually flows through our lives.

People: **In the midst of the multitude, we will praise God in song, worship, and service.**

Hymn

'Shepherd Me, O God'

TFWS 2058

***Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,  
Beyond my fears, from death into life.***

OPENING PRAYER

**You are the Good Shepherd, Lord, we hear your call; we know your voice; we follow your paths. You lead us beside still waters. You guide us to the springs of life. You shelter us and restore our souls. In you we find life everlasting. We come humbly into your presence this day, in praise, worship, and adoration. Our hearts run over with your unfailing goodness and never-ending love. In the name of our Savior, we pray. Amen.**

INTROIT

'He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought'

No. 128, vs. 1 & 3

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”

**“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”**

### FIRST LESSON

Acts 9: 36-43

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. John

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### \*THE GOSPEL IS READ

John 10: 22-30

### THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

## PROCLAIMING

### SERMON

‘Privileged to Serve’

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

## REMEMBERING

### HYMN

‘For All Mothers Everywhere’  
(Sung to the tune of “For the Beauty of the Earth”)

by Robert J. Campbell  
No. 92

(Anyone wishing to light a candle in memory or in honor of a mother, grandmother, mother figure is welcome to do so during the singing of the hymn)

1. For all mothers everywhere,  
for God’s love brought down to earth  
for the joy divine, they share  
In the miracle of birth.  
**Refrain**

**Refrain**  
Lord of all, to You we raise  
this our song of grateful praise!

2. For our mother’s loving arms  
First to lift us in this life,  
strength and nerve in life’s alarms,  
hands that heal in hurt or strife.  
**Refrain**

3. For our mother’s listening ears,  
for her presence always there,  
in our laughter, joy and tears,  
and her willingness to share.  
**Refrain**

## CELEBRATING OUR WOMEN

### LITANY OF PRAYER

Lord, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for our mothers. We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from your hands, and gave it to us. Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth.

We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else, we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms.

Pastor: Today, we pray for older moms whose children are grown.

**People: Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.**

Pastor: We pray for new moms experiencing changes they could not predict.

**People: Grant them rest and peace as they trust you for the future.**

Pastor: We pray for pregnant women who will soon be moms.

**People: Grant them patience and good counsel in the coming months.**

Pastor: We pray for moms who face the demands of single parenthood.

**People: Grant them strength and wisdom.**

Pastor: We pray for moms who enjoy financial abundance.

**People: Grant them time to share with their families.**

Pastor: We pray for moms who are raising their children in poverty.

**People: Grant them relief and justice.**

Pastor: We pray for step-moms.

**People: Grant them patience and understanding and love.**

Pastor: We pray for moms who are separated from their children.

**People: Grant them faith and hope.**

Pastor: We pray for moms in marriages that are in crisis.

**People: Grant them support and insight.**

Pastor: We pray for moms who have lost children.

**People: Grant them comfort in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: We pray for mothers whose pregnancies have been terminated for whatever reason.

**People: Grant them healing and peace.**

Pastor: We pray for moms who gave up their children for adoption.

**People: Grant them peace and confidence as they trust in your providence.**

Pastor: We pray for adoptive mothers.

**People: Grant them joy and gratitude for the gift you have provided.**

Pastor: We pray for girls and women who think about being moms.

**People: Grant them wisdom and discernment.**

Pastor: We pray for women who desperately want, or wanted to be moms.

**People: Grant them grace to accept your timing and will.**

Pastor: We pray for all women who have assumed the mother's role in a child's life.

**People: Grant them joy and the appreciation of others.**

Pastor: We pray for those people present who are grieving the loss of their mother in the past year.

**People: Grant them comfort and hope in Christ's resurrection. Amen!**

## PRAYER OF BLESSING:

Lord, we thank you for the gift of motherhood. We thank you for the many examples of faithful mothers in scripture, like Sarah, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Lois. Hear now the first names of other women who have inspired us by their motherly examples . . . We are mindful this day of all these women, and especially Mary the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, who had the courage in faith to say “yes” to your calling. May these women gathered here today emulate these examples of faith. And may they model for all the rest of us what it means to be your disciple. Bless them on this special day; in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## WITH THANKSGIVING

Pastor: In celebration of our “Women”, we at the South Avenue United Methodist Church wish to bless those in our midst who hold the love of Jesus as a mother in their hearts. All women and girls, grandmothers, mothers, spiritual mothers and future mothers are asked to come forward to receive a flower as a symbol of the blessing that Christ Jesus as given us.

## HYMN

‘Faith of Our Mothers’  
(Sung to the tune of “Faith of Our Fathers”)

No. 710, vs. 1, 2 & 3

1. Faith of our mothers, living still, in cradle and song and bedtime prayer,  
In nursery lore and fireside love, Thy presence still pervades the air,  
Faith of our mothers, living faith! We will be true to thee to death.
2. Faith of our mothers, loving faith, Fount of our childhood’s trust and grace,  
O may Thy consecration prove, Source of a finer nobler race.  
Faith of our mothers, living faith, we will be true to thee till death.
3. Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, For youthful longing, youthful doubt,  
How blurred our vision blind our way, Thy providential care without,  
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, we will be true to thee till death.

## PRAYER OF BLESSING

**We thank you, Lord, for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will honor them in everything we do. Amen.**

## HYMN

‘Faith of Our Mothers’  
(Sung to the tune of “Faith of Our Fathers”)

No. 710, v.4

4. Faith of our mothers, Christian faith, In truth beyond our stumbling creeds  
Still serve the home and save the church. And breathe Thy spirit through our deeds  
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith! We will be true to Thee till death.

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### THE LORD’S OFFERING

### OFFERTORY

‘Praise Be To Thee, Lord Jesus Christ’

J.H. Buttstedt

### \* DOXOLOGY

No. 95

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Loving Shepherd, we thank you for your tender care. Everything we have comes the goodness of your love. Receive the gifts we return to you now, that sheep in other flocks may come to know you and discover that you are the one who lays down your life for the flock. Amen.**

## SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.

**People: We lie down in green pastures and drink from still waters.**

Pastor: Our shepherd restores our souls.

**People: Even though we walk through the darkest valleys, we fear no evil, for our shepherd travels with us.**

Pastor: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.

**People: And we will dwell in with our shepherd forever.**



### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

898

***A-men, a-men, a-men***

### \*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Happy the Home When God Is There'

No. 55, vs. 1 & 4

### POSTLUDE

'Recessional In D'

J. Mansfield

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



Healey Family & Friends (Ginnie's Friend) -Passing of Dick  
Don Donaldson (Ginnie's Friend) - heart issues  
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  
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



**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**  
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**A WELCOMING, WORSHIPPING, WITNESSING, CARING, LEARNING COMMUNITY OF FAITH**