



Family and friends of Sue's cousin, Dorothy, who passed away

Petronio family & friends - passing of Amanda

Holly Davis

Dorothy Hawkins

Fawn Sherwin - health concerns

Prayers that the violence will stop

Those affected by COVID

Kristin (Sue's friend) - diagnosed with thyroid cancer

Liz Swartz (Carolyn's friend) - prayers needed

Kathy Nestler (Carolyn's friend) - prayers needed

Debbie Valera - recouping from surgery

Beverly (Larry's sister/Kim's sister-in-law) - cancer treatments

Don Donaldson (Ginnie's Friend) - heart issues

People of Ukraine & Afghanistan

Peacemakers

Barbara Thaw -continued prayers

Judy Spencer Baker - continued prayers

Aubrie (Ginnie's granddaughter) - diagnosed with breast cancer

Irene Chenot (Barbara's friend's mom) - cancer

Joe (Ginnie & Sue's cousin) - diagnosed with my

Gary (Ginnie's son) - continued good health

Pastor Russel W. Shuluga

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi

Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian — Pittsburgh District Superintendent

People in African nations—let there be enough food for them

Those who are traveling

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Those in silence needing prayers



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

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1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 1, 2023

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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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:15AM

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

No. 220

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We enter into another year celebrating the goodness of our Lord.

People: As we celebrate the New Year, we pause to reflect on the blessings and growth of the past year and the hope and the vision for the year to come.

Pastor: We stand at a crossroads between past and future.

People: What a wonderful place for us as Christians to be: our focus on God’s love and mercy as we look to the Cross of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Pastor: Let us join our hearts now in celebration of this New Year that God has prepared for us, his people.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: At the threshold of this New Year, O God, we come before you in the light of your love, ever mindful of the gift of your Son. We come before you with the promise that this year will be different...

People: that we will follow the star instead of the crowd.

Pastor: We come before you with the promise that this year will be different...

People: that we will do what Mary did and rejoice in God.

Pastor: We come before you with the promise that this year will be different...

People: that we will do what Joseph did and listen to our dreams.

Pastor: We come before you with the promise that this year will be different....

People: that we will do what the Wise Men did and go to worship.

Pastor: We come before you with the promise that this year will be different...

People: that we will do what the shepherds did and praise God for all that we have seen and heard.

All: O God, we have such good intentions as the year stretches out before us. When the night becomes it’s darkest and we cannot see our path, guide us back to Christmas and the light of the star. We embrace our promise that this year will be different because we are different because of your gift of love. The holiday is over, but the work of Christmas is just beginning. Keep us steadfast in our task to bring the light of Christmas to the dark corners of our world as we strive to follow in the footsteps of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ. We come now, as we stand on the threshold of a new year, to worship you. Amen.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord, you now have set your servants free to go in peace as you have promised. For these eyes of ours have seen the Savior whom you have prepared for all the world to see! Blessing and honor and glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Let us go into the new year with Jesus, common in origin with us.

People: We go into the new year with Jesus, who treats us as family, as brothers and sisters.

Pastor: Let us go, placing our trust in God, just as Jesus did.

People: We go as children of God, with Jesus by our side.

Pastor: And all of God’s Christmas people say together:

All: Amen!

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

‘Danish Amen’

No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

‘Hark! The Herald Angels Sing’

No. 240

POSTLUDE

‘WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD’

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, as we remember these words and acts of Jesus, we offer our own lives, leaving behind what we do not need, seeking new paths full of risen life in you. As followers of Christ, we proclaim and live out this holy mystery.

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

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

In this act of sharing a common meal, we ask the Holy Spirit to come to us. At this table, we are able to see, smell, touch and taste the gifts that our God freely offers to us. And yet, this table, is filled with not only God's gifts to us, but also with our dedications to God for the new year. Fill us, Holy Spirit, with the promise of new possibilities and open our hearts to the New Jerusalem here on earth. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world, the body of Christ, breaking ourselves open to your future. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

HYMN

'This Is a Day of New Beginnings'

No. 383

INTROIT

'Sing We Now of Christmas'

No. 237, vs. 1 & 4

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 is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 63:7-9

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

'Alleluia'

No. 186

*GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

People: And also with you.

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Matthew 2: 13-23

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI

#70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

'A Promise in the Uncertainty of 2023'

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSING

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the light of Christ, we see the shadows of our world and of our hearts. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, as we begin a new year, we confess our sin in the year that is past. We have often sought our own welfare and not the welfare of others. We have complained about the state of the world while doing little to change it. We have spent time worrying and talking that should have been spent praying and listening. We have invested energy in our appearances that should have been invested in the renewal of our hearts and minds. Forgive us, we pray, and make us new persons in Christ. Let the new year be what the old year should have been. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: This is the good news: Christ is the light of the world who grants forgiveness and healing of our sins.

People: Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'Joy to the World'

No. 246, v. 3

RESPONDING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving and receptive God, who acted in the Bethlehem birth and who sustains the whole human family, we come to you seeking to be wise men and women. May our gifts be a sign, as were the gifts for those travelers of old, what wisdom is marked by an offering of self and substance to the Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

HOLY EUCHARIST

THE PREFACE

Jesus invites us to his table, freely, without condition. We cannot earn a seat at his table and yet we are here. We come together as individuals but have now formed a community of believers. Just as the grapes and the grains of wheat are transformed, we also are transformed by his grace and his love.

We have come to this table at Jesus' invitation, once strangers, now family.

THE 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 the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.

Hosanna in the highest.