

## CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

'The Power of Words'

Rev. Russel Shuluga

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

'Chorale: Blessed Jesus at thy word'

J. S. Bach

\*DOXOLOGY

Sung to No. 95

**'Praise God through-out these forty days.  
Praise Christ our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen'**

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**In the hour of his temptation, when Jesus hungered, he knew from where his sustenance came: "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Lord, from the abundance of your grace, your word has provided all that we need. All that we have is yours. Receive the offering of our hands and the gratitude of our hearts. In the name of our Savior we pray. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

\*BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** As you leave this place, abide in the shadow of the Most High.

**People:** **God is our refuge and our strength.**

**Pastor:** As you wander through the wilderness, put your trust in the Holy One.

**People:** **Christ is our shelter in times of temptation and fear.**

**Pastor:** As you face times of trial, call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

**People:** **The Comforter leads us safely through. Go with God's blessing.**

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\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Be Still, My Soul'

No. 534, V. 1

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross'

No. 301, V. 1

\*POSTLUDE

'Finale from Sonata 6'

Felix Mendelssohn

***WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD***

**February 26, 2023**

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

### Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Pastor Russel contact information:

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Pastor Russel is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.



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

### CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE 'Variations on the chorale 'Jesus Priceless Treasure' Johann G. Walther

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT  
'Jesus, Remember me' No 488 (sing 3X)

### CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We begin the season of Lent, we make our way to the cross.  
**People: We remember the steps that led Christ there: betrayal and fear, but also trust in God, and love for humanity.**

Pastor: In this season of Lent, as we make our way to the cross, we strive to follow Christ's example: to admit betrayal and fear that are a part of life.  
**People: To embrace trust in God and love for humanity.**

Pastor: We begin our journey to the cross.  
**People: So we make our journey as we worship God.**

HYMN 'Beneath the Cross of Jesus' No. 297

OPENING PRAYER

**God of wilderness and water, your Son was baptized and tempted as we are. Guide us through this season of Lent that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, through the cleansing depths of repentance and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Amen.**

INTROIT 'How Great Thou Art' No. 77, V. 1

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

### CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before our merciful God and beg for God's pardon on this Lenten journey.

GENERAL CONFESSION

**Holy God, we have entered the wilderness of Lent and temptations are all around us. From outside and from within we are tempted to abandon your Word and replace it with lies of our own. We confess that we have not trusted you as we should. Through both our action and our inaction we have failed to trust your Word and believe your promise of salvation. Forgive us, merciful God, and hear now our prayer.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Friends, by the grace of God, you and I have been forgiven of our sins. **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF ASSURANCE 'What Wondrous Love Is This' No. 292, V. 1  
***What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!***  
***What wondrous love is this, O my soul!***  
***What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss***  
***To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,***  
***To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.***

\*SHARING THE PEACE

Abundant grace is God's gift to us. Out of all proportion to our wrongdoing, we receive grace and forgiveness from God's amazing love, revealed to us in Christ Jesus. Share this love, so freely given to us, with one another.

### 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' No. 601 (Refrain only)  
***"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."***

FIRST LESSON Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

PSALTER 'Psalm 32' No. 766

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 'Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus' No. 349  
***"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face,***  
***and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace"***

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 4:1-11

\*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.  
**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

\*GLORIA PATRI No. 70