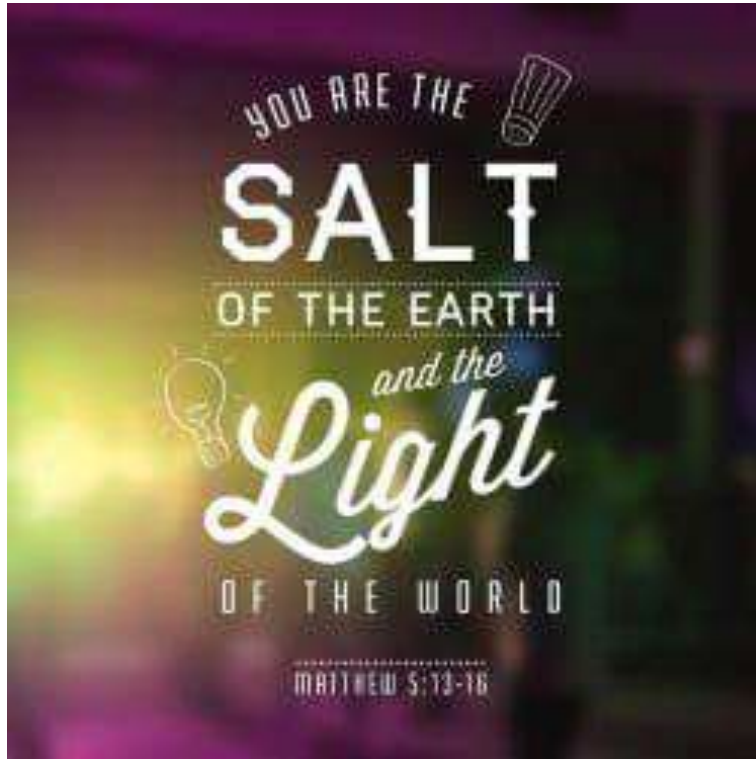


FEBRUARY 5, 2023
Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany



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

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE 'Offertoire sur less Grand Jeux' Grancois Couperin

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN & BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Come, Christians, Join to Sing'

No. 158

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We are called to bring a new understanding of God; that God so loves the world.

People: We are the salt of the earth.

Pastor: We are called to bring a new hope in God; that God gives us new life.

People: We are the light of the world.

Pastor: We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

People: The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.

Pastor: Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

People: Come, let us love one another with the love of God. Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus.

OPENING PRAYER

God of mystery and of judgment, who has made us to be salt and light in a tasteless, shadowed world, guide us in this time of worship. Grant us understanding and spiritual discernment so that others may see your good works through us, give you the glory, and be moved to serve you. Amen.

INTROIT 'O How I Love Jesus'

No. 170, V. 1

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

MIFFLIN AVENUE ENSAMBLE 'Adoration'

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

The Word

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

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

'Alleluia'

No. 186

*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

Matthew 5:13-20

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

The Gospel of the living Christ.
Glory to You, oh Lord

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

'O How I Love Jesus'

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

GENERAL CONFESSION

Compassionate One, forgive us when our compassion runs short; forgive us when we worship in word but not in truth; forgive us when we side with the powerful rather than the poor and meek. Shine into the dark places of our lives and into the shadowy depths of our souls. In your grace and mercy, transform us into vessels of light, that we might be lamps shining on a hill with compassion and kindness, justice and mercy. Loosen the bonds of sin and selfishness within us, that we might loosen the bonds of injustice and oppression in our world. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: When we accept Christ's gift of grace, God releases us from the yoke of sin and sorrow, and we are able to live as God's chosen ones. When we loosen the bonds of injustice and the yoke of oppression, we are living vessels of light. Rejoice, sisters and brothers, our light shall rise in the darkness, and we shall shine for all to see!

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Christ calls us to let our lives and our work – salty, bright, and good—give witness to the reign of God in our midst. Let us generously offer our gifts of time, talent and treasure.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

'Voluntary in D Major'

Thomas Tompkins

DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of light and love, shine through these offerings, that our love may radiate throughout the world. Make bright the hope of justice and mercy in places of darkness and fear. Guide our paths, that we may always be lights of compassion and care for a world in need. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH HOLY EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION

Come to the Lord's Table, all you who love him. Come to the Lord's Table, be at peace.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: 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.

In ancient days, you created us in your image to be reflections of your glory. When we fell short, and the brilliance of your light shining within us dimmed, you held our hands and walked with us out of the garden into all the corners of the earth.

From ancient times, through all the ages, you have trusted us, redeemed us from sin, saved us from oppression, and proclaimed our place as your people.

In the dark wilderness of days gone by and days yet to come, you shine as a pillar of light and invite us to shine with you.

And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and joining their unending hymn.

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.*

Holy are you and blessed is the light of the world, Christ Jesus.
From a humble beginning to a violent death, Jesus shone with the light of your love and grace.
His ministry and teachings stand even today as beacons of justice and righteousness in a world too
often darkened by oppression and sin.

Through Jesus' humble beginnings, you invite us to humble ourselves and live simply.
Through Christ's patient love and unfailing grace, you shine on us with forgiveness and deliverance,
that as your redeemed children, we might shine in your world as signs of hope and love.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night when Jesus faced the darkness, he offered signs of light as he took the bread, gave
thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat; this is my body which
is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, and Jesus prepared to face his darkest fears, he took the cup, gave thanks
to you, and gave it, even to disciples who would betray and reject him, saying: "Drink from this, all of
you; this is my life poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you
drink it, in remembrance of me."

With joy and gratitude, we break this bread, remembering the many times Jesus was revealed to his
disciples in the breaking of the bread.

In remembrance, we will take and eat this bread.

With faith and hope, we take this cup, remembering Jesus' ongoing gifts of grace and forgiveness,
poured out for disciples yesterday, today and forevermore.

In remembrance, we will take and drink of this cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts and signs of light and life in Jesus Christ, we offer
ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as signs of light and life in union with Christ's offering for us as
we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here, that we may be your light in the world.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that we may be filled with your glory and grace.

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 the heavenly banquet.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever more. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

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.**

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

You are the light of the world! Now take that light into all the places that need the light and love of God. Take the light into all the places that need the light and grace of Jesus Christ. Take that light into all the places that need the light and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Go and *be* the light of the world!



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'
A-men, a-men, a – men.

No 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 'They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love' TFWS, No. 2223, Vs. 1 & 3

*POSTLUDE

'Rondeau'

Andre Camera

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

PRAYER REQUESTS

Beverly's family & friends (Larry's sister) - passed away
Janice Melonic (Carolyn's friend) - diagnosed with cancer
Petronio family & friends – passing of Amanda
Holly Davis
Dorothy Hawkins
Fawn Sherwin – health concerns
Jim (Mary K's friend) - cancer treatments
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
Debbie Valera – recouping from surgery
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 myeloma cancer
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



*Your light will
Break forth
Like the dawn,
And your healing
Will quickly appear
- Isaiah 58:8*