

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We are called to live in hope and to share this hope with the world. Let us offer thanks to God for all God has given us by sharing generously of ourselves and of our resources. Through our gifts, may all experience the hope to be found in our life-giving God.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY 'O World I Must now leave thee' Johannes Brahms

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Life-giving God, we offer you ourselves and our resources. Use us and our gifts, that we may be water bearers to a world thirsty for love, for meaning, for justice, and for hope. May all your people encounter fullness of life through the love of Christ, which lives within us. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Drink deeply of the waters of Salvation and quench your thirst for truth, for the Lord is with you. Go in God's peace and bring the good news to all whom you meet. AMEN.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE 'Be Still, My Soul' No. 534, V. 1

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 'Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross' No. 301, V. 1

*POSTLUDE 'Choral from "Suite Gothique"' Leon Boellman

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

March 12, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



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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 'Blessed thee that live in faith unswerving' Johannes Brahms

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS Exodus 17, Romans 5, John 4

Come and see....water gushing from a rock.

Come and see...someone who knows you through and through.

Come and see...hope alive, right here, right now.

Come and see...then give God thanks and praise.

We come to worship the God of life and love.

CENTERING HYMM AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Jesus, Remember Me'

No. 488 (Sing 3X)

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We come to the well of fear and doubt.
People: We have drawn deeply of those waters.
Pastor: We come to the well of anger and hate.
People: These waters flourish in all the land.
Pastor: Lord, bring us to the water of peace and hope.
People: Lord, bring us to the well of salvation. AMEN.

HYMN 'Fill My Cup, Lord' No. 641

OPENING PRAYER

Wellspring of eternal life, we come to you this day having drunk deeply the waters of anxiety and despair. Bring to us your living water. Quench our thirsting souls, for we offer this prayer in Your Name. AMEN.

INTROIT 'You Who Are Thirsty' TFWS No. 2132

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

God of living waters, we confess that we have often turned from you and wandered in our own wildernesses of fear and doubt. Our thirst mounts daily, seeking to be quenched by your redeeming love. Yet, when that love is offered to us, we again turn away, unable to truly believe that you would actually heal and love us. We have behaved in very unloving ways. We have chosen to ignore those in need or to deal only passively with them. Our hearts are not placed in service to others, but rather in self-serving motives. Heal us, merciful God. Wash us again in the living water. Help us be faithful servants. AMEN

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The waters of mercy and healing are poured over you. God is loving and faithful to those who come to God. Come, seek the loving presence and be healed. AMEN.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE 'Blessed Assurance' No. 369, v. 1

*SHARING THE PEACE

Let us greet one another with words of hope—words that come from the wellspring of love flowing within us because of our encounter with the living Christ.

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 Exodus 17: 1-7

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

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

*THE GOSPEL IS READ John 4: 5-42

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

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

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON 'Jumping to Conclusions' Rev. Russel Shuluga