

## 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 'Chorale: "A lamb goes uncomplaining forth" J.S. Bach

\*DOXOLOGY 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

**Loving shepherd, gentle savior, we give you thanks this day: for rest in green pastures, for refreshments beside still waters, for health and wholeness for our souls. As we rejoice in your goodness and mercy, we offer you our gifts this day. Through our offering, may others be blessed, as we have been blessed from your hand. AMEN.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go into the world, carrying the light of Christ into the darkness!  
**People: We go, with hearts full and eyes open!**  
Pastor: Receive God's love and care and share that love and care with others!  
**People: We go, with eyes reflecting God's light and hands open to share it!**  
Pastor: May you walk in the light of Christ all the days of your life!  
**People: We will follow Christ wherever he leads us! Amen!**



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

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

\*POSTLUDE 'Voluntary in G Major' William Waland

## WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

## Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church March 19, 2023

FOURTH 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 'Prelude in D Minor' J.S. Bach

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING WORDS

Be Thou our vision, O God. Be our eyes. Be our hearts. Be the grace that flows through our lives. Only with your eyes can we see rightly.

CENTERING HYMM AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Jesus, Remember Me' No. 488 (Sing 3X)

## CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The Lord is my shepherd.

**People: I am troubled, O Lord, and fearful, I cannot find my way to you.**

Pastor: I will give you what you need.

**People: But I am weak; my courage has failed.**

HYMN 'Shepherd Me, O God' TFWS No. 2058  
**'Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.'**

Pastor: You are given healing, beloved child.

**People: Take me beyond my wants and burdens.**

Pastor: You are invited to dwell in the house of peace forever.

**People: Lord, I come to you, seeking your healing love and salvation. AMEN.**

HYMN 'Shepherd Me, O God' TFWS No. 2058  
**'Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.'**

### OPENING PRAYER

**Light of all lights, be our vision this day. Open our eyes to behold your glory. Open our hearts to the warmth of your love. Open our minds to the flame of your truth. Open our souls to the glory of living as children of light, that others may see in our living the sacred mystery of your kingdom. Amen.**

INTROIT 'Be Thou My Vision' No. 451, V. 1

### CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### GENERAL CONFESSION

**Forgiving God, in a world filled with so much pain, we would rather shut our eyes and be blind than see things as they really are. Grant us the courage to face the reality of our world and give us the strength to bring your light to those who walk in darkness. Help us see others as you see them and forgive us when we do not trust you enough to open our eyes to the possibilities before us. Heal our self-inflicted blindness, O God, and lead us in the footsteps of the Light of the World, who reveals your glory in his life, his teachings, and his love. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Israel's shepherd is our shepherd. The Light that leads us through the darkest valleys anoints us with love, fills our cup to overflowing, and brings us goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE 'Savior, Like a Shepherd Leads Us' No. 381, V. 3

### \*SHARING THE PEACE

Look around. Look closely. Do you see Christ's light shining? Greet one another as children of light, for that is what you are when you abide in Christ, the Lord of light.

## 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 Ephesians 5:8-14

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

PSALTER 'Psalm 23' No. 137, Response 1

\*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 9:1-41

### \*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 'The Failure to Communicate' Rev. Russel Shuluga

Ministry of Music 'The Sounds of Silence'  
(Paul Simon)