

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

God gives us steadfast love and abundant mercy. Now, we are invited to bring our gifts to God as tokens of our thanksgiving and praise.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY 'Chorale "O sacred head sore wounded"' 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

Abundant God, thank you for the gifts we bring to you. May these gifts bring new life to those who are in need in our community and in the world. In your beloved name, we pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: We are a people loved by God.

People: We will live as signs of this love.

Pastor: We are a people blessed with hope.

People: We will live in light of this hope.

Pastor: May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the courage of the Spirit, strengthen our faith and set us loose to share God's love with all.

People: Amen and 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 on the Third Tone' Thomas Tallis

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

March 26th, 2023

FIFTH 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 on "Rosemedre"' Ralph Vaughan Williams

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Jesus, Remember me'

No. 488 (Sing 3X)

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Jesus had confidence in life after death, may that confidence can be ours.
People: The grief felt at Lazarus’ death was overcome by the reassurance of Jesus.
Pastor: He said, “I am the resurrection and I am life”
People: In raising Lazarus, Jesus demonstrated that death is not beyond the hope found in resurrection.
Pastor: We are strengthened in our faith by the mighty acts of Jesus.
People: We are given courage and confidence by the power of God to overcome our worst fears. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Healing and Empowering God, we are sometimes so sure that things will not work out, we doubt even your ability to put things right in our lives. We lack such faith. But Jesus came to show us that our most dreaded enemy--death--can be overcome by faith. Heal our doubts and our longings for assurance and give us spirits of trust and hope. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

INTROIT ‘Because He Lives’ No. 364 V. 3

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

GENERAL CONFESSION

God, we confess that we are frightened by death. We have experienced the loss of loved ones and have heard, all too often, of the horrible losses sustained by the young people who live in lands of warfare and strife. In this scripture today we encounter Lazarus and his family. They, too, long for Lazarus to be alive again. Jesus’ power to resurrect Lazarus confuses us. We long for that type of healing for our loved ones. And so, when their bodies cannot be healed and they die, we slip away from our faith, proclaiming that it is a nice story. Give us courage to face our fear. Give us awareness that you have offered to all those who have gone before us, a place in your kingdom. Help us move away from the prison of death to the light of eternal life and hope. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Though darkness and death appear all around, there is the comforting healing light of God’s love shining on you and in you. Feel the warmth of the presence of God and let go of your fear, for God is with you. AMEN.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE ‘Hymn of Promise’ No. 707, vs 2 &. 3

*SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of the Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Pastor: May we offer one another signs of peace and reconciliation.

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 Romans 8: 6-11

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 11: 1-45

*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 Theology of Divine Suffering!” Rev. Russel Shuluga