



***Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church***

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**MAY 28, 2023**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

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. 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. Pastor Russel has an open door policy. Anyone wishing to speak to the pastor, is welcomed and encouraged to call. He is available 24/7.

# Order of Worship

11:15 am

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## CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

'Trumpet Voluntary'

John Stanley

*(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

We gather on a somber holiday. We remember with sadness those we have loved and lost. Let us not glorify the conflicts and violence that tear our loved ones from us. Let us, rather, give glory to God, who calls us to use our freedom peaceably. Our God is a God of all nations and peoples. May our worship of God unite rather than divide.

## CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

\*OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'O Spirit of the Living God'

No. 539

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In a world filled with violence and war,

**People: we gather together to celebrate the promise of peace made possible through the giving of God's Spirit.**

Pastor: In a world filled with tyranny and oppression,

**People: we gather together to celebrate the promise of justice for all.**

Pastor: In a world filled with hunger and greed,

**People: we gather together to celebrate the promise of plenty for all.**

Pastor: Our hope is in the name of the Almighty God,

**People: the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Praise to God who has brought to us the gift of his Spirit.

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: In the quiet sanctuaries of our own hearts, let each of us name and call on the One whose power over us is great and gentle, firm and forgiving, holy and healing...You who created us, who sustains us, who calls us to live in peace.

**People: Hear our prayer for all who have died, whose hearts and hopes are known to you alone. Hear our prayer for those who put the welfare of others ahead of their own and give us hearts as generous as theirs. Hear our prayer for those who gave their lives in the service of others and accept the gift of their sacrifice.**

Pastor: Help us to shape and make a world where we will lay down the arms of war and turn our swords into ploughshares for a harvest of justice and peace. Comfort those who grieve the loss of their loved ones and let your healing be the hope in our hearts.

**People:** Holy Spirit, blow through our gathering as you blew through that Pentecost gathering so many centuries ago.

**Pastor:** Breathe in us your new creation, that we may be renewed and revived to be your people once more. Speak through our differences and our diversity and bind us together in unity and love.

**People:** Hear our prayer this day and in your mercy answer us in the name of all that is holy.

INTROIT

'Surely the Presence of the Lord'

No. 328

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

## REMEMBERING

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR OUR FALLEN HEROS

**Pastor:** Each Memorial Day, we pause to remember those who have died in service to our country.

**People:** We remember and give thanks.

**Pastor:** Behind each sacrifice, lie people who gave up their special moments.

**People:** We remember and give thanks.

**Pastor:** We remember, this day, the 1,350,000 men and women who gave their lives for the sake of freedom. As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy every day, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People:** We must never forget their courage, their strength, and their sacrifice.

**Pastor:** Our holy and gracious God, help us to remember. Help us to remember the sacrifices bravely made in which one has given life for another and for all. Help us to remember those that stand in the breach where there is trouble and in which conflict threatens to undo your good creation. Help us to remember that we look for the day when all may live your peace. Forgive us every sin that makes for division and for war and bring us all into your kingdom on earth as in heaven.

**People:** God of ages past and hope to come, we offer our gratitude for those who have gone before, we offer our hope for those yet to come. As we honor the past, help us dream of a future of love and peace. Comfort us in our sorrow. Strengthen us for the journey. Guide us on the path of justice. Help us live as your people, that others may see and remember your wisdom and truth living in us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

\*PRESENTATION OF A WHITE ROSE

A white rose is presented to the glory of God and in remembrance of all who have given the ultimate sacrifice—the giving of their lives in serving our great nation.

\*HYMN

'Amazing Grace'

No. 378, Vs. 1 & 5

\*TAPS

\*HYMN

'America the Beautiful'

No. 696, Vs. 1 & 2

## HONORING OUR MILITARY AND VETERANS

Pastor: For our men and women serving under orders this day, especially those who may be in situations of danger or captivity, that they may be inspired by the ideal of duty, may conduct themselves with honor, may reflect the noblest love of country and may receive strength equal to every challenge they face, we pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: For families of men and women now on active duty, families of veterans, civilian families who have suffered in times of war, and especially whose tables will always have an empty chair, we pray to the Lord.

**People: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Today, we remember our veterans and active military,

**People: and we give thanks.**

### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

'Armed Service Medley'

(Veterans and those in the military are invited to come forward as you hear the anthem played for your branch of service.)

### PRAYER OF BLESSING

**We pray, O God, a special blessing upon these men and women who stand before us. We thank you, O God, for their faithfulness and bravery, that we might know freedom. Keep our hearts open to treat this freedom with care. Amen.**

### HYMN

'America the Beautiful'

No. 696, V. 3

## RESPONDING

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*Bring your gifts, whatever they may be.*

*For together, we possess all that we need to bless God's world.*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

### OFFERTORY

'Fugue in F major'

J.S. Bach

### \*DOXOLOGY

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**In freedom we come, O Lord, offering a portion of the blessings you have bestowed upon us. Use this offering to help bring about peace in your world. And we offer ourselves to perfecting your kingdom of peace and justice among nations. Amen.**

## HEARING

### 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 Acts 2:1-21

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

LESSON RESPONSE 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic' No. 717 (Refrain only)  
*Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah! His truth is marching on.*

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 'Alleluia' No. 186  
*"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia"*

### \*GOSPEL LESSON

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 7:37-39

### \*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

\*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

## PROCLAIMING

SERMON 'The Gift of Freedom' Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

## SENDING

### \*DEPARTING LITANY OF PEACE AND BLESSING

Pastor: Creator and Ruler of Life, who has given us the Prince of Peace, let us begin our press for peace in the world by accepting the inner peace you offer to our lives.

**People: Give us peace, O God.**

Pastor: Let us be makers of peace within our own families and communities.

**People: Give us your peace, O God.**

Pastor: Fill our hearts with love of humankind and respect for human dignity that will demand justice and peace for all the world.

**People: Let us have peace, O God.**

Pastor: Guide your church, O God, to a concern for world peace, and let us accept our responsibility to call our nation and others to commit themselves to a strategy for peace.

**People: Help us make peace, O God.**

Pastor: Lead us in our press for peace that we may not cease until there is truly peace on earth.

**People: Help us make peace, O God.**

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE 'Danish Amen' No. 898

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN: 'Let There Be Peace on Earth' No. 431

\*POSTLUDE 'Improvisation on patriotic themes'

**'WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD'**



Pastor Russel—recovery from surgery  
Prayers for JW  
Virginia Atkinson  
Those affected by gun violence  
Ellie Holderbaum (Ginnie’s family friend 19<sup>th</sup> year old daughter) - recovery from surgery  
John McQuade – medical issues  
Annie (Viehland’s friend) - recovery from surgery  
Families who are traveling  
Seth (Robert Morris’s son) - accident  
People of Turkey & Syria  
People of East Palestine, Ohio  
President Carter—in hospice  
Jim White (Ginnie’s son) - recovery from rotator cuff surgery  
Steven Akers—health concerns  
Pastor Janet Hellner-Burris—health concerns  
Janice Melonic (Carolyn’s friend) - diagnosed with cancer  
Holly Davis  
Dorothy Hawkins  
Kristin (Sue’s friend) - diagnosed with thyroid cancer  
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  
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi  
Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian — Pittsburgh District Superintendent  
Peacemakers  
People of Ukraine  
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church  
United Methodist Church

# MIFFLIN AVENUE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Judy Spencer Baker – May 28th

## **PITTSBURGH PRIDE PARADE - SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 3, 2023**

The Pittsburgh Pride Revolution 2023 will be held June 2-4 in downtown Pittsburgh and on the North Side. ([lgbtqpittsburgh.com/](http://lgbtqpittsburgh.com/)). The Pittsburgh Pride March & Parade has been scheduled for Saturday, June 3rd with a start time of noon. This year, Sewickley United Methodist Church and the First United Methodist Church of Pittsburgh have already decided to participate by marching in the parade on June 3rd and by providing an information table the afternoons of June 2nd and 3rd. Please consider participating! Please join this celebration and be a witness of God's love for ALL people!!!! Please pass this Save the Date announcement to anyone who might be interested!



## **MAY MISSION OPPORTUNITY "BETHLEHEM HAVEN"**

Bethlehem Haven provides shelter and supportive services to thousands of homeless individuals. The continuum of care consists of a range of housing and supportive services designed to enable each client to identify their needs, develop a plan of action, and achieve a successful outcome.

Bethlehem Haven believes that a secure home is an essential foundation to achieve stable mental and physical health, as well as personal empowerment. Every client who lives at Bethlehem Haven is linked to supportive services, specifically designed for their individual needs. Bethlehem Haven helps clients identify an action plan to achieve self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

To donate to Bethlehem Haven, make your check payable to MAUMC and write "Bethlehem Haven" in memo line or put on your envelope. Place in offering on Sunday morning or mail to the church.

## **SAVE YOUR SHOES!**

Mifflin Avenue UM Church is collecting new or gently used shoes (rubber band pairs or tie shoelaces together) that will be donated to EUMA (Erie United Methodist Alliance a non profit organization and All God's Children Ministries, West Springfield, PA. They help those impacted by disabilities or experiencing homelessness.

Pastor Russel will take them to WPAUMC Annual Conference in Erie, PA on June 15th. Bring your shoes to Mifflin Avenue on or before June 11th. There will be a bin by bulletin boards on office level.

For more information about both of these organizations visit <https://euma-erie.org/> or visit All God's Children Ministries on Facebook.