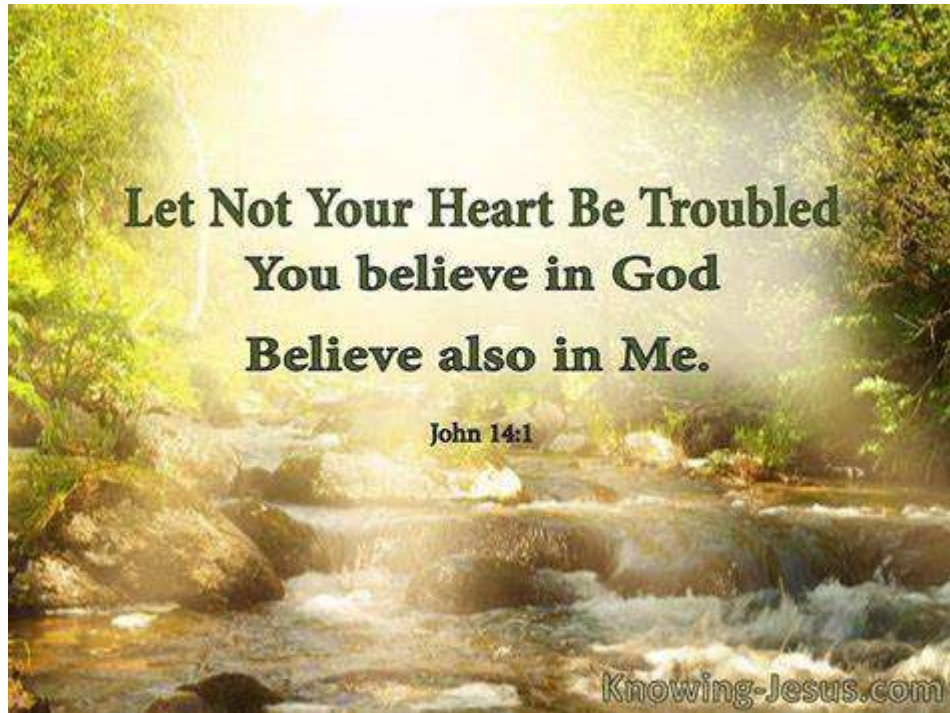


Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

May 7, 2023

5th Sunday of Easter



Pastor Russel contact information:

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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 – 11:15 AM

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE 'Cornet Voluntary' William Walond

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT
'The Church's One Foundation' No. 545

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Once we were not a people.
People: Now we are God's people.
Pastor: Once we ate food that did not satisfy.
People: Now we drink the spiritual milk of our Lord.
Pastor: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, our refuge and our strength, train our hearts on the words of your Son: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." Feed our souls with your spiritual milk, and build our very lives into spiritual houses that neither famine nor storm can shake the foundation of our faith. In the name of the master builder and the living stone, we pray. Amen.

INTROIT 'Be Still My Soul' No 534 1 & 3

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

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

FIRST LESSON Acts 7: 55-60

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

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
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 14: 1-14

*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 'God Always Has the Last Word' Pastor Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Living God, in times of spiritual homelessness, we long to hear Jesus's assurance that he has prepared a place for us; we yearn to be formed by the Master Builder into spiritual houses, like living stones. Grant us the courage of Stephen and the confidence of Peter, as we strive to be a holy priesthood, In your blessed name, we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God and place your faith in Christ. Make your petitions known and the one who is faithful will answer.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE 'My Tribute' No. 99

SHARING THE PEACE

God is our refuge and our strength. See this in one another as your pass the peace of Christ.

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

'Aria'

G. F. Handel

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of overflowing abundance, you feed our spirits with spiritual milk and nourish our souls with heavenly food. You are our fortress and our rock when the snares of this world threatened to overwhelm us. In gratitude for your mercy and your many blessings, we offer you our gifts and our ministries, that a wounded world might know your grace. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION

Pastor: People of God, come to the Table where you shall eat and be satisfied.

People: **With grateful hearts we come!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

May the Lord of Easter be with you!

And also with you!

Open your hearts to God, beloved of the Lord.

We lift them to the One who fills our lives with joy and wonder.

Children of Easter, sing praises to God.

Our voices unite in thanksgiving to the One who walks with us in this life.

THE SURSUM CORDA

You opened your hands, pouring creation's glory into the emptiness of chaos, God of beginnings. The sun, moon, and stars became the mirrors of the light of your face, shining down upon all that was crafted.

Shaping us in your divine image, you stood beside us, pointing out all the good you offer to us. But we found comfort in sin's shadows, fear and doubt claiming us as friends, and we turned our backs on you. Through our ancestors in the faith, Sarah and Samuel, Hannah and Hosea, you demonstrated your faithfulness, your longing to welcome us into your embracing arms of love. But we did not recognize them, and clung to the vain words spoken to us by temptation. So, you sent your child to us, to show us what love truly is, that we might have this hope offered to us in Jesus.

So, with little children who delight in your joy, and with older folks who trust in your promises, with our sisters and brothers throughout all time, we join our voices in praising your name:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy, God of grace and beauty. All creation joins in singing your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes so we may be like him. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed are you, Holy and Righteous God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Author of Life. In the Word become flesh, you call us to repent and turn to you. In the Light of the world, our eyes are opened so we can see you standing with us. In scarred hands and feet, we see the power of sin and death destroyed by your grace and hope, so we can reach out and embrace that life which is ours forever with you.

As we gather around the Table to remember, as we give thanks for the life which was given for us, we speak of what we do not always understand – the mystery of faith.

**Christ walked to Calvary to die for us.
Christ strode from the tomb to raise us to life.
Christ will come and stand among us, to lead us home.**

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.
And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

In this moment, and in this place, pour out your Spirit upon us, and on the gifts of the bread and cup which have been prepared for us. As we take the bread from your scarred hands, may we reach out to mend the brokenness of our world. As we drink from the cup, open our hearts and eyes, so we may see those the world overlooks, so we may stand with them in every moment and place.

And when our journey has ended, when at last all is revealed to us, we will take our places around the wedding banquet in heaven, joining our sisters and brothers in singing our thanks and joy to you, God in Community, Holy in One, now and forevermore. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

COMMUNION PRAYER

O Lord, may we who eat this bread, become a people of living stones; may we who drink this wine become a people of salvation. Enrich our faith and trust as we gather together again at your table for this sacred remembrance. We confess our broken and sinful behavior and seek forgiveness for the harm we have done to others and to ourselves. In these moments of communion together, may we experience the confidence of children who know they are loved and accepted completely. Amen.

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**

Pastor: Once we were not a people.

People: Now we go as God's people.

Pastor: Once our souls were parched from thirst.

People: But now we go satisfied, fed by God's spiritual milk.

Pastor: Once our hearts were troubled.

People: Now they rest secure.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'
Amen, amen, a-men.

No 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Jesus Loves Me'

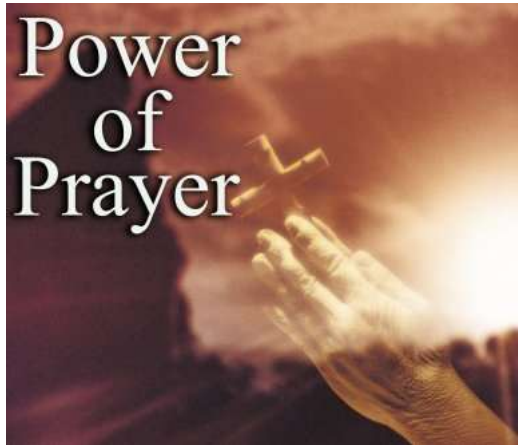
No. 181, Vs. 1 & 3

*POSTLUDE

'Now Thank We All Our God'

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD



Pastor Russel—recovery from surgery
Prayers for JW
Virginia Atkinson
Lucille McBride (Lana’s sister) – in hospice
Those affected by gun violence
Ellie Holderbaum (Ginnie’s family friend 19th year old daughter) - recovery from surgery
John McQuade – medical issues
Annie (Viehland’s friend) - 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
Jim (Mary K’s friend) - cancer treatments
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 United Methodist Church
905 Mifflin Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

A WELCOMING, WORSHIPPING, WITNESSING, CARING, LEARNING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

WELCOME!

where faith & life meet



Mifflin Avenue
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Everyone is welcome, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here.

We are Christ's people and this is Christ's place with its doors **wide open**. If you are passing through, Godspeed. If you are looking for a worship home, please stay with us. We invite visitors to join with us, and most of all, to return often.