



May 14, 2023

6th Sunday of Easter

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Pastor Russel contact information:

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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. 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

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

'Cornet Voluntary'

William Walond

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING PRAYER:

Lord, on this day set aside to honor and remember mothers, we give you thanks for our mothers. We are grateful that you chose to give us life through them, and that they received the gift of life from you, and gave it to us. Thank you for the sacrifices they made in carrying us and giving us birth. We thank you for the women who raised us, who were our mothers in childhood. Whether birth mom, adopted mom, older sister, aunt, grandmother, stepmother or someone else, we thank you for those women who held us and fed us, who cared for us and kissed away our pain. We pray that our lives may reflect the love they showed us, and that they would be pleased to be called our moms.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*OPENING HYMN & BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Giving Thanks to Mothers'
(Sung to the tune: 'Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee No. 89)

Rev. Rebecca Kelly 2006

*Lord, we thank you for the mothers
By whose faith we come to Thee;
Who reflect Your grace and mercy
In their faces, You, we see.
Honor mothers, God commands us,
Show respect and loving care,
Instruments You made to guide us
Mothers who Christ's love doth share.*

Through the ages, leading forward
Moms who serve to glorify.
Eve's firstborn starts all the races,
Child in pain sparks Hagar's cry.
Hannah's prayers and Mary's song
Tell acceptance of God's will.
King of grace and peace and patience
These the lessons mothers tell.

Lord, we thank you for the mothers
Who have brought us forth on earth.
Giving life that we may worship
Savior born of Virgin birth.
All created by Holy Maker
Workmanship beyond compare
For the gift of moms, we thank Thee
Praise to You, we do declare

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on themes from Psalm 139)

Pastor: We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God, who, like a mother, knows us intimately, loves us unconditionally, teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need.

People: Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!

Pastor: We've come to worship God, who loved us before we were yet born, who knows us even better than we know ourselves, whose presence never leaves us, and whose love for us never ceases.

People: This is our God. Let's worship together!

OPENING PRAYER

God with a mother's heart, you gather us as your children. You comfort and hold us in your warm embrace. When we hurt your arms enfold us. When we are afraid your wings protect us, when we are hungry you feed us with the bread of life. God with a mother's heart, your love surrounds and supports us, In good times and in tough, In the midst of joy and pain, always and everywhere. You will never leave nor abandon us. God eternal and loving one, God with a mother's heart, we thank you this day, for being part of your family. Amen.

INTROIT

'Happy the Home When God Is There

No. 445, vs. 1 &4

***Happy the home when God is there, and love fills every breast;
when one their wish, and one their prayer, And one their heavenly rest.***

***Lord, let us in our homes agree this blessed peace to gain;
unite our hearts in love to thee, and love to all will reign.***

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST (Acts 17, John 14)

Because Jesus Christ is in us, and we in him, his peace is a powerful gift that we may share with others. Pass the blessing of this peace to your brothers and sisters in Christ and to all the children of God.

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"

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

FIRST LESSON

1 Peter 3:13-22

Pastor: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALTER

'Psalm 66:8-20

No. 790

*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 14: 15-21

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

'Come Close And Listen'

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

REMEMBERING

HYMN

'For All Mothers Everywhere'
(Sung to the tune of "For the Beauty of the Earth")

by Robert J. Campbell
No. 92

(Anyone wishing to light a candle in memory or in honor of a mother, grandmother, mother figure is welcome to do so during the singing of the hymn)

**1. For all mothers everywhere,
for God's love brought down to earth
for the joy divine, they share**

**Refrain
Lord of all, to You we raise
this our song of grateful praise. the
miracle of birth.**

Refrain

**2. For our mother's loving arms
First to lift us in this life,
strength and nerve in life's alarms,
hands that heal in hurt or strife.**

**3. For our mother's listening ears,
for her presence always there,
in our laughter, joy and tears,
and her willingness to share.**

Refrain

Refrain

LITANY OF PRAYER

Pastor: All who gather here are sons or daughters.

People: We praise God for the women who gave us life.

Pastor: For mothers brave, strong, compassionate, full of wisdom and grace,

People: We give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: For mothers vulnerable, worried, frustrated, and hurried,

People: We pray for peace.

Pastor: For relationships that are strained and no longer a source of joy,

People: We pray for healing.

Pastor: We pray for moms who face the demands of single parenthood.

People: Grant them strength and wisdom.

Pastor: We pray for older moms whose children are grown.

People: Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job well done.

Pastor: We pray for new moms experiencing changes they could not predict.

People: Grant them rest and peace as they trust you for the future.

Pastor: For mothers who have died, that live no longer with us, but whose light shines on in our hearts and memories,

People: We pray for those that mourn and give God thanks for life eternal.

Pastor: For mothers who grieve, who have lost children born or unborn,

People: We weep with those with broken hearts.

Pastor: For those who are struggling to raise children, who are tired and weary,

People: We pray that we may be their village, offering real help in hard times.

Pastor: For those who are preparing emptier nests,

People: We both celebrate and mourn with you, and hope their wings are as strong as their roots are deep.

Pastor: For stepmothers, navigating the pitfalls and joys of creating a new family,

Pastor: We pray for wisdom and patience.

Pastor: For Grandmothers who are doing the hard work of raising children again,

People: We pray for patience and strength.

Pastor: For those who are waiting and sometimes struggling with the biological process to bring new life, and for those who are waiting for adoptive process to be fulfilled.

People: We wait eagerly with you and offer you our hand to hold in the trial.

Pastor: For women who do not have children, but instead teach, lead, care for, and guide the children of others,

Pastor: We give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: For the mothers, sisters, daughters in our midst and around the world. For the women who, created in the image of God, give not just life, but abundant life. For women fighting, struggling, and sweating for the sake of others. For women caring, compassionate, and crying with the heart of Christ. For the caregivers, prophets, preachers, teachers, leaders, shepherds, healers. For Moms, in their wide variety and many forms,

People: We give God thanks and praise.

CELEBRATING ALL OF OUR WOMEN

Pastor: In celebration of our "Women", we at the Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church wish to bless those in our midst who hold the love of Jesus as a mother in their hearts. All women and girls, grandmothers, mothers, spiritual mothers and future mothers are asked to come forward to receive a flower as a symbol of the blessing that Christ Jesus as given us.

HYMN

'Faith of Our Mothers'
(Sung to the tune of "Faith of Our Fathers")

No. 710, vs. 1, 2 & 3

- 1. Faith of our mothers, living still, in cradle and song and bedtime prayer,
In nursery lore and fireside love, Thy presence still pervades the air,
Faith of our mothers, living faith! We will be true to thee to death.*
- 2. Faith of our mothers, loving faith, Fount of our childhood's trust and grace,
O may Thy consecration prove, Source of a finer nobler race.
Faith of our mothers, living faith, we will be true to thee till death.*
- 3. Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, For youthful longing, youthful doubt,
How blurred our vision blind our way, Thy providential care without,
Faith of our mothers, guiding faith, we will be true to thee till death.*

PRAYER OF BLESSING

We thank you, Lord, for the women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will honor them in everything we do. Amen.

HYMN

'Faith of Our Mothers'
(Sung to the tune of "Faith of Our Fathers")

No. 710, v.4

- 4. Faith of our mothers, Christian faith, In truth beyond our stumbling creeds
Still serve the home and save the church. And breathe Thy spirit through our deeds
Faith of our mothers, Christian faith! We will be true to Thee till death.*

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We are invited to give an accounting of the hope that sustains us, the love and presence of God that upholds all. Out of this sustaining hope, let us give our gifts today for those who also need this hope.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

'Aria'

G. F. Handel

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Giver of all gifts, we are grateful for your every blessing and for your presence through all of life— in our joys and fears, and in our hopes and dreads. We pray for those who do not know the consolation of your presence in their lives, asking that you reveal yourself to them through the gifts we have given and through the lives we live. Reveal yourself, O God, that all your children may find their true home in you. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Wherever we are, we are in God.

People: Wherever we are, we are in Christ, and Christ is in us.

Pastor: Wherever we are, the Spirit abides with us and in us.

People: We go forth in peace and hope, upheld by God in every way.

Pastor: Let us go forth in faithfulness and trust.

People: May all see the Divine in and through us.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

‘Danish Amen’
A-men, a-men, a-men

No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

‘You Formed Us in Your Image, Lord’
GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7 with Refrain (“What Child Is This” No. 219)

*You formed us in your image, Lord;
You call us your own children.
In you, each one is loved, adored —
Unique among the millions.
Bless, Lord, the families
Who know the joy: Christ claims and frees!
Bless, too, the ones who weep,
Forgetting that you love them.*

*You made our homes to honor you
With love the strong foundation.
In serving God and neighbor too,
We find our life's vocation.
Bless families large and small
Who love and serve you when you call.
Bless, too, the ones who fear —
Whose trust and love are shattered.*

*Christ loved and honored family,
Yet showed us what is greater.
He taught a higher loyalty
To God our good Creator.
Bless, Lord, the ones who long
To build up homes where faith is strong.
Bless children, women, men
Who risk to serve your kingdom.*

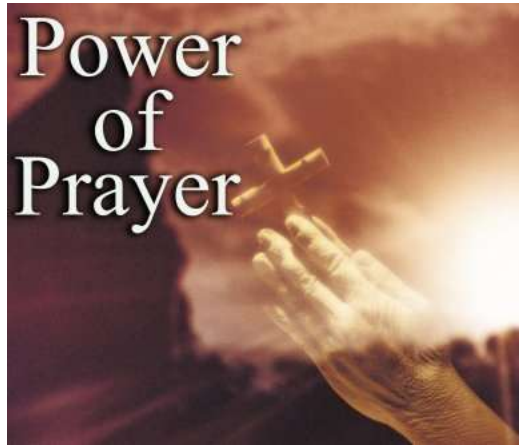
*In home and church our faith is formed;
We learn your love and caring.
From here we're called to face the storm,
Your love and justice bearing.
Each day your Spirit sends!
We go to strangers, neighbors, friends.
Peace, justice, joy we bring
To all your human family.*

POSTLUDE

‘Now Thank We All Our God’

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

‘WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD’



Pastor Russel—recovery from surgery

Prayers for JW

Virginia Atkinson

Lucille McBride (Lana's sister) – passed away

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-Burriss—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!



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.