

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Matthew 10: 24-39

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Leader: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

'The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly!'

Rev. Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God, we know you call us for service, and you bless us in order that we may be a blessing for others. With that sense of high calling, we present our tithes and offerings. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up His countenance upon us, and give us peace, this day and forever more. Amen



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

Open My Eyes, That I May See'

No. 454

*POSTLUDE

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

June 25, 2023

4th Sunday after Pentecost

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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-11:15 AM

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

Come and bow down before God, and glorify God's name. For God is great and does wondrous things; who alone is God.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee'

No. 89

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: There is no one like you, God of Abraham and Sara.

People: We ask for signs, and you fill us with surprises.

Pastor: There is no one like you, God of Hagar and Ishmael.

People: We cry out in our need, and you listen to our voices.

People: There is no one like you, God of each and every person.

People: We ask for power and you give us the humility to serve all your children.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, as we walked through the doors to this place of worship, we brought with us our cares and concerns, our joys and our sorrows. Touch our hearts and heal us, Lord. Make us ready to become your faithful disciples. AMEN.

INTROIT

'Spirit Song'

No.. 347

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Whether we whisper, weep, or shout, we can trust God to hear us and to respond. Even when we fail to follow Jesus -- especially when we fail to follow -- God does not turn away, but cradles us in the steadfast arms of mercy and grace. Let us confess our sins together, praying,

GENERAL CONFESSION

We confess to you, God our God, that some of the stories in the Bible trouble us more than the news we hear each day. Some of the words that Jesus speaks make us more uncomfortable than the cries of those in need in our communities. And while our baptism may be a sign of your invisible grace, many of those around us do not find us to be very gracious people.

Forgive us, Gracious God. Save us and give us the strength to be willing to take up whatever task you give us, and the faith to be willing to lose our lives for others, so we might find life forever with you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Once we were slaves to sin, living lives that led only to death. But thanks be to God! In his mercy, he has set us free from the power of sin and death and has offered us eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord! Now we are free to choose life, and to use our lives to bring honor and glory to God!

Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'Amazing Grace'

No. 378 V. 1

*SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: Welcome each other. Welcome the stranger. Welcome all who come. As Christ welcomed everyone, no matter what their background, no matter what their social status; as Christ welcomed enemies and friends, outcasts and leaders, foreigners and neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives. Let us be Christ to everyone we meet. 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

Leader: 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

Genesis 21: 8-21

Leader: 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"

Leader: The Lord be with you,

People: and also with you.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.