

***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 'What is the Purpose of the Church' Rev. Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

You received from God without payment. Give generously out of God's bounty, living a sign of the kingdom of heaven.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

No. 95

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Loving God, what shall we return to you for your great bounty in our lives? Your generosity knows no limits. Your loving compassion pours into our hearts and our very beings. We thank you. We call upon you, trusting your love. We offer you all that we have and all that we are, hoping for your glory and desiring your kingdom. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

***BENEDICTION**

May Jesus, who sees the crowd and has compassion, have compassion on you. May Jesus, who sees a plentiful harvest, send you out as laborers in his fields. May Jesus, who sees the kingdom of heaven draw near, make you a sign of God's love for all people. Amen.



***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

"Danish Amen"

No. 898

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

'The Summons'

TFWS No. 2130 V. 1 & 5

***POSTLUDE**

'WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD'

**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
June 18, 2023
3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

Pastor Russel's contact information:
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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

As the people of Almighty God, it is important for us to be here today, for we need this time of reflection and renewal, we need God's comfort and direction, and we need the support and friendship of God's people.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

"When Jesus Called You "Father" Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation" No. 545)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.

People: For some of us, our father's love is like God's love -- too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.

Pastor: Some of our dads are here; some were never here.

People: For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left behind.

Pastor: All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.

All: On this day when we remember what it means to have a father or be a father, we recognize the importance of fathers in our communities. We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture the men among us so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they say and do.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, our Lord Jesus Christ called you Father. Remembering his love for you, we pray today for all human fathers. May they be like Abraham, welcoming you with hospitality and laughter, and receiving in return a legacy of faith for generations to come. May they rely upon your grace as they answer the call of parenting. And may they show to their children the compassion of Jesus Christ, who responds to human suffering and need with limitless love. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

INTROIT 'Faith of Our Fathers' No. 710 V. 1 & 3

RECOGNIZING THE MEN OF OUR CONGREGATION

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

GENERAL CONFESSION

Pastor: Ever-present, ever-listening, and ever-empowering God,

People: we often fall short when responding to your love.

Pastor: You promise us blessings,

People: yet we often laugh in cynicism and disbelief.

Pastor: You always love us,

People: yet we often act distant and even hostile.

Pastor: You empower us to be your loving presence,

People: yet we often seek this power for ourselves.

Pastor: We call upon you now,

People: knowing that you hear our voices and our supplications.

Pastor: We call upon you in this place,

People: knowing that no accomplishment is too wonderful for you to accomplish.

Pastor: For there is no limit to your love for all people,

People: and there is no end to your mercy.

Pastor: In Jesus's name, we pray.

All: Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of God, the Holy Spirit pours God's love into our hearts. In Jesus Christ, we share the grace and glory of God.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE 'Standing on the Promises' No. 374 V. 4

*SHARING THE PEACE

Justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ. Let us greet one another with signs of Christ's peace.

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 5: 1-8

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"

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

People: and also with you.

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ Matthew 9:35 -10:8