

July 2, 2023
5th Sunday after Pentecost



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

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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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
11:15 a.m.

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN & BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'God of the Ages'

No. 698

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Brokenness floods our world dividing us against each other. Lord, who do you call us to be in these times of trouble?

HYMN

'Let Us Be Bread'

TFWS No. 2260

**Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared, life for the world.
Let us be wine, love freely poured.
Let us be one in the Lord.**

Pastor: Fear grips us and we need to know what to do. What shall we do?"

HYMN

'Let Us Be Bread'

TFWS No. 2260

**Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared, life for the world.
Let us be wine, love freely poured.
Let us be one in the Lord.**

Pastor: Lord, we come before you today seeking your guiding love. Pour out your Spirit on us that we may truly serve you. AMEN.

People: AMEN!

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of hope, when the dark clouds assail, you ask us to bear the light of your love and truth. When fears seem to immobilize us, you give us courage and strength to bear your witness. We thank you for your call to us. We praise you for your sustaining love for us. We honor you with our lives and our service to you; for it is in Christ's Name, we offer this prayer. AMEN.

INTROIT

'You Satisfy the Hungry Heart'

No 629 V. 2 & 5

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all good gifts.

For the women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,

We thank you Lord.

For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation,

We thank you Lord.

For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,

We thank you Lord.

For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,

We thank you Lord.

For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,

We thank you Lord.

For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice,

We thank you Lord.

For the innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,

We thank you Lord.

For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,

We thank you Lord.

For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,

We thank you Lord.

Lord, we pray for The United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice.

We pray to you Lord.

That we might always be a nation where all are free to worship and pray,

We pray to you Lord.

That we might be a beacon of freedom to all those who live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,

We pray to you Lord.

That those who are elected to govern and lead, would be guided by you, and be ever aware of the trust that has been given them,

We pray to you Lord.

That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to you and to your grace,

We pray to you Lord.

Gracious God, Father of all nations, bless and defend all people and all lands; prosper the work of our hands, and increase in us your grace and compassion, and our offerings of thanks to you, our rock and our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN

‘America the Beautiful’

No. 696

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

FIRST LESSON

Romans 6: 12-23

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

“Alleluia’

No. 186

*GOSPEL LESSON

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew

Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Matthew 10:40-42

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

The Gospel of the living Christ.

Glory to You, oh Lord

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

“People of Welcome”

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

GENERAL CONFESSION

Forgive us, O God, for how easily we forget that freedom in Christ binds us to love both enemy and neighbor, and calls us to welcome the stranger and alien among us. We too easily fall into the trap of assuming our side is right, and we have the lock on grace for this world. And centered in our righteousness, we believe it is our right to cast out the other. With the angry words we speak, and with the ways we keep silent, we harm others in the name of freedom.

Remind us, O God, that true freedom in Christ binds us to one another. In the things we have done for the name of independence, and in the things we have left undone in the name of freedom, forgive us O God. Bind our hearts to our neighbor once again. For true freedom knows no border or boundary or bias. So, reconcile us together into the freedom of Christ once again. In your Holy Name we pray, Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Paul reminds us that in Christ there is no longer Greek or Jew, no longer male or female, but that we are all one in Christ, and in that oneness, we find freedom in Christ and are bound to one another in love. Grace frees us to love and serve each other in Christ's name. Amen.

HYMN OF ASURANCE

'Freely, Freely'

No. 389

***SHARING THE PEACE**

Receive your sisters and brothers with love. Welcome one another with friendship and peace.

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Even a cup of cold water can be an offering beyond price on a hot day. May we bring our gifts, whether small or large, to be offerings of grace for those in need of God's love.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

No. 95

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Generous God, you have abundantly blessed each one of us; cause these gifts to be a blessing as they are put to work in your world. AMEN.

CELEBRATION THROUGH HOLY EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION

Come to the table of grace.

All are welcome here.

Come, all who thirst for God.

All are welcome here.

Come, all who hunger for love.

All are welcome here.

Come to the table of grace.

Here, God nourishes our souls.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE SURSUM CORDA

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our creator. You have given us life and second birth in your Spirit. Once we were no people, but now we are your people.

You claimed Israel as your chosen nation and raised up the church as a witness to the resurrection, breathing into it your life and power. From worlds apart, you gathered us together.

When we go astray, you welcome us home. Always, your love has been steadfast.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. In love with you and in compassion for all, Jesus healed and taught, challenged and comforted, welcomed and saved.

He formed a community, promising to be with his disciples wherever two or three were gathered, and sending them on his mission of hope and healing in the world. Jesus trusted his life to you, and went freely to his death, so the world might be set free from suffering and sin.

You raised him from death and raise us also to live a new life with him.

In the power of the Holy Spirit, you send us out to make disciples as he commanded.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.

Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place.

Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
Give us your peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, may we who have received this sacrament live in the unity of your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth your gifts to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

As we have been received in God's love,

we go to receive others in love.

As we have been welcomed with God's grace,

we go to welcome the world with grace.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

No 898

A-men, a-men, a – men.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'This Is My Song'

No. 437

*POSTLUDE

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD