

**CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION**

SERMON 'No Condemnation' Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

**CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As we receive our morning offering, remember all the ways in which God has entered your lives, and be grateful.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY No. 95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Just as your word is a light to our path, Holy One, may our offering of praise be a light to the world. In this season of fruitful gardens, help us share bountiful harvests of our own making. Whether our offering be of our time, wealth, or prayer, receive and multiply our gifts through the glory of your love. Amen.**

**CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING**

\*BENEDICTION

May your path be gentle, your soil rich, and your weeds small. As you go forth into the world, look for gardens to water, feed, and cultivate. Nurture the love of Christ in others, as well as in yourselves. Amen!



\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE 'Danish Amen' No. 898

\*RECESSIONAL HYMN 'Shalom to You' No. 666

\*POSTLUDE

***WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD***

**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**

**July 16, 2023**

**7th 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

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

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

When you allow God's word to shed light along your garden paths, you prepare the soil of your life to produce beautiful, healthy growth. May you see the light God, feel the warmth of the Son, and hear the Spirit in the music of the wind.

## CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

### OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above'

No. 126

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits....

**People: So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won't take root....**

Pastor: God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits....

**People: Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.**

Pastor: God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits....

**People: These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots.**

Pastor: May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love takes root. AMEN.

### OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God, gather us into this moment of reverence, celebration, and growth. As your sons and daughters, we long for renewed faith and meaning in our lives. Christ's Parable of the Sower lights our path, with its images of rocky ground, tangled thorns, and green shoots. May the light of your word illuminate our way and become the joy of our hearts! Amen.**

### INTROIT

'Spirit of the Living God'

No. 393

### CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess to God and before one another our sins and especially the ways we allow our hearts to grow hard, stony, and thorny.

### GENERAL CONFESSION

**Merciful One, we often feel the burden of living, as though we've been tossed on rocky soil and left to struggle on our own. Other days, we throw ourselves too quickly onto wrong paths. We are tested by hungry birds; we are choked by thorns and wither in the beating sun. We are here to choose different paths, confirm new oaths, admit our afflictions, and ask you to give us life again. Perfect One, show us your ways and bless us with your sacraments, that we may not stray from your road. Help us hear your word, understand it, and bear your fruit for the world.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Be assured that it's never too late! The God of Love, and Christ the storyteller, remind us to listen, understand, and act. Prepare your hearts as garden beds for God's seeds of joy and hope. Receive God's grace today and every day.

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'To God Be the Glory'

No. 98V. 1

### \*SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor: God has received us, pardoned us and loved us: let us Forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ.

Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: May we stand and offer one another 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

Romans 8:1-11

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"***

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.**

### \*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

### \*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Leader: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70