

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of dreams and visions, we offer you our gifts this day in gratitude and praise for your angels who come to bring us your blessings. May this offering be a sign of our commitment to be a blessing to all the peoples of the earth. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Wherever you are on life's journey, take time to mark sacred encounters with joy.

People: We will see the salvation of our God.

Pastor: Go as children of light, children of the living God.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Let Us Now Depart in Thy Peace'

No. 668

*POSTLUDE

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

July 23, 2023

8th 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

In this house of God, angels traverse ladders of holy love. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty' No. 139 V. 1, 2, & 5

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This is none other than the house of God. This is nothing less than the gate of heaven.

People: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Pastor: God hems us in, behind and before, and lays hands of blessing upon us.

People: Such knowledge is too wonderful for us. It is so high we cannot attain it.

Pastor: Rest in the majesty of our God. Give thanks and sing of God's glory.

People: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

OPENING PRAYER

Caretaker of our souls, you search us and know us; you are acquainted with all of our ways. Your Spirit hems us in, behind and before. You discern our thoughts from afar. If we take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead us, and your might shall hold us fast. How can we bear such wonder? How can we fathom such awe and splendor? Breathe your Spirit upon us, and claim us as children of light, that we might be found worthy of your love and care. Amen.

INTROIT 'Surely the Presence of the Lord' No. 328

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess to God and before one another our sins and especially our failure to see God in others as we assess their weeds and our grain.

GENERAL CONFESSION

We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. We are quick to see the weeds that grow in the gardens of others but slow to see them in ours. We see mostly good grain in us and not so much in others. We are too often unaware of your presence among us in the very lives of those we criticize. Open our eyes to your presence and help us to tend our gardens well. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is present with us now and always. God's grace is abundant and freely offered when we open ourselves to God's presence in those around us. Share God's love and discover it in your own life.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE 'Victory in Jesus' No. 370 V.1

*SHARING THE PEACE

As children of light who have been adopted into the family of God, greet one another with joy by sharing signs of Christ's peace.

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 8:12-25

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.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

*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 'Got Hope?' Rev. Russel W. Shuluga