

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us share our gifts to make God's deeds known among the peoples. May our gifts and offerings glorify God and tell of Christ's wonderful works.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God, you bless us with gifts of love and moments of grace and mercy. For this earth and its bounty, we give you our thanks. For our lives and for the opportunity to share them with those we love, we offer you our praise. Bless the gifts we lay before you, that they may be signs of your loving kingdom to a world awaiting good news. Amen

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: If God is for us, what more do we need?

People: Nothing can separate us from Christ's gracious love.

Pastor: If Christ is with us, what can stop us?

People: Nothing can keep us from sharing Christ's gifts of love and strength.

Pastor: Go with love as our guide.

People: God is our constant companion.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'We've a Story to Tell to the Nations'

No. 569 V. 1 & 4

*POSTLUDE

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

July 30, 2023

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Russel's contact information:

Phone: (412) 735-5072 Email: Shulugarussel@gmail.com

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

Good things come to those who wait. Like seeds buried in the ground, God's love bursts forth in the fullness of time to bring new life and new possibilities.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'

No. 110

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: From the mustard seed a great and mighty shrub emerges.

People: Good things can come from something that seemed so insignificant

Pastor: The spore of the yeast can leaven the whole loaf of bread.

People: We can be those people who bring hope and peace to God's world.

Pastor: Come, let us praise the God of great and mighty wonders

People: Let our spirits soar in gratitude for the opportunities God gives us to serve.

All: AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of mustard seeds and yeast, we come to you this day, seeking your Word and will for us. Make us people who care deeply about the well-being of others. Give us courage to be yeast for the rising of hope and peace throughout the world. Open our hearts to your redeeming love, for we ask this in Christ's Name. AMEN.

INTROIT

'Seek Ye First'

No. 405

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

GENERAL CONFESSION

Diligent Lord, who watches over us at all times, be with us all these days. We confess that we have allowed a host of worries and frustrations to crowd out your word for us. As you give us peace and your transforming love, also forgive all those times when we have been less than faithful disciples. Gently visit us again with your healing powers. Restore our hope and courage and joy for all the times ahead. We ask this in the name of the Master Healer, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'Blessed Assurance'

No. 369 V.1

*SHARING THE PEACE

As we wait and work to bring God's realm, let us offer signs of our hope by sharing the peace of Christ with one another.

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 29: 15-28

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: 31-33, 44-52

*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

'Listening To Those Long Silenced'

Rev. Russel Shuluga

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

(see insert)