

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

Pastor Russel contact information:

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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, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

God speaks from burning bushes and souls on fire. May God grant us eyes to see and ears to hear, as we worship this day.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty'

No. 64

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The place on which you are standing is holy ground, therefore,

People: love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Pastor: Holy ground. Therefore,

People: rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Pastor: Holy ground. Therefore,

People: live in harmony with one another.

Pastor: Holy ground. Therefore,

People: do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Pastor: The place on which you are standing is holy ground, therefore,

All: if it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

OPENING PRAYER

Great I Am, you come to us in unexpected ways. Excite our curiosity that we might turn aside and realize we are standing on holy ground. Appear to us in fire and wonder, that we might see worlds beyond the reaches of our imaginations. Reveal the glory of your kingdom—where love is genuine, where evil is forsaken, where mutual affection abides, and hospitality is shown to strangers, where all are made one. Help us, O God, to recognize holy ground in all of our living. Amen.

INTROIT

'Holy Ground'

TFWS No. 2272 (2X)

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

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' No. 601 (Refrain only)
"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"

FIRST LESSON Exodus 3: 1-15
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 16:21-28

THE GOSPEL RESPONSE
The Gospel of the living Christ.
Glory to You, O Lord

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON 'Called by Name' Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

GENERAL CONFESSION

Forgive us, O God, for profaning the holy ground of human relationships when we fail to listen with our hearts to others. Forgive us for desecrating the holy ground of mother earth when we do not take care of our natural resources. Forgive us, God, for dishonoring the holy ground of ourselves when we neglect our mental, physical, and emotional health. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The great I Am invites us to turn aside and boldly embrace paths that lead to life. Turn and receive blessing upon blessing.

HYMN OF ASURANCE 'Because He Lives' No. 364 V. 1

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As God has blessed our lives with abundant love and gifts, let us bring our tithes and offerings to this place, seeking to help others, to offer comfort and hope. Let us receive our morning offering.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord of all mercy and compassion, bless these gifts lovingly offered and all the people here. Help us to use these gifts for ministries of hope through our church and into our community, nation and world. AMEN.

CELEBRATION THROUGH HOLY EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION

Come to this table where bread and cup are transformed by the Spirit of God into a meal of love and grace. Come to the Table where all souls are welcome.

Let us gather our hearts

Our hearts are at home in God.

Let us give thanks for God's unfailing love.

God's love endures forever.

Let every heart be lifted up

Let us prepare to receive our Christ.

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.

God of all creation, from the beginning you have made this world in love, and you have created us to live in love. We see your glory in the tender orchid, in the thunderous storm, in majestic mountains and the glittering expanse of the sea. All of life is sustained by your Divine Breath, who you sent among us on the day of Pentecost. We rejoice in the works of your hands, and it is right and good for us to give thanks to you, in all times and in all places, with a joyful and grateful heart. And so we join our voices with angels and archangels, and across the span of time and distance in the great cloud of witnesses that is your living Church, a unified chorus of praise:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might Heaven and earth are full...Full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes In the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

All glory and honor are yours, O God, for you bring life from death, joy from suffering, and dancing from mourning. We give thanks that abundant life is made known to us and present within us in your son Jesus, who has come to live and die as one of us, to reconcile all creation to life, and life everlasting. By him and with him and in him, the web of your love is made whole, and we with it.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Jesus gathered his disciples and said, "Remember me." And so we do. We remember that he gathered not only his friends but even his betrayer around a common table, sharing the gifts of wheat and vine, the first fruits from the earth. We remember that he offered himself to us, that we may follow him even beyond death into your eternal love.

On the night of your betrayal, Lord Jesus, you took bread, blessed it, broke it, gave it to your disciples and said, "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

You did the same with the cup after the supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out is the new covenant in my blood."

Blessed Trinity, in remembrance of all you have done to save us, we offer ourselves to you in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim)the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has come among us. Christ has died.
Christ has risen. Christ abides with us.
Christ will come again.**

Gather us now at your table, O God, that we may be sustained in our journey of faith. May these gifts of the earth be for us the gift of your goodness made present and made known. And grant that we who eat this feast may be filled with your life and goodness.

The gifts of God for the people of God;
let us keep the feast.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love. Gather your whole church, O Lord, into the glory of your kingdom.

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

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your son, our savior, Jesus Christ. And you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of Eucharist. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us the strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord, Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Live peaceably with others. Hold fast to what is good. Honor what is just and show mutual affection for all. Go with the blessings of the almighty.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'
A-men, a-men, a – men.

No 898

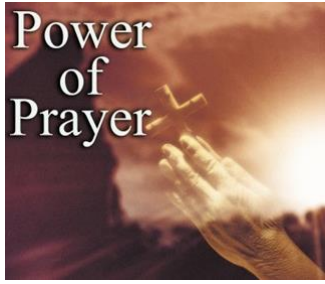
*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Make Me a Channel of Your Peace'

TFWS No. 2171

*POSTLUDE

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD



John McQuade—recovery from surgery
Those affected and missing by the fires in Maui
Those affected by explosions in Plum
Roberta (Carolyn’s friend) - diagnosed with early dementia
Those affected by COVID
Those affected by RSV
Sharon S.—diabetes complications
Scott (Paulette’s son) - cardiac Lyme disease
Jean Winter—Prayers needed
Lainee Rivers (Kim’s friend) – Prayers needed
Dave McEchern (Kim’s friend) – prayers needed
Kristina Terrell (Kim’s friend) – prayers needed
Virginia Atkinson
Those affected by gun violence
Ellie Holderbaum (Ginnie’s family friend 19th year old daughter) - recovery from surgery
Annie (Viehland’s friend) - recovery from multiple surgery
Families who are traveling
Seth (Robert Morris’s son) - accident
People of Turkey & Syria
People of East Palestine, Ohio
President Carter—in hospice
Jim White (Ginnie’s son) - recovery from rotator cuff surgery
Steven Akers—health concerns
Pastor Janet Hellner-Burris—health concerns
Judy Spencer Baker - continued prayers
Aubrie (Ginnie’s granddaughter) – diagnosed with breast cancer
Joe (Ginnie & Sue’s cousin) - diagnosed with myeloma cancer
Gary (Ginnie’s son) - continued good health
Rev. Russel W. Shuluga
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Rev. Paul Ritchey— Pittsburgh/Greensburg DS
Peacemakers
People of Ukraine
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
United Methodist Church



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
905 Mifflin Avenue
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A WELCOMING, WORSHIPPING, WITNESSING, CARING, LEARNING COMMUNITY OF FAITH

WELCOME!

where faith & life meet



Mifflin Avenue
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Everyone is welcome, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here.

We are Christ's people and this is Christ's place with its doors **wide open**. If you are passing through, Godspeed. If you are looking for a worship home, please stay with us. We invite visitors to join with us, and most of all, to return often.