

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

October 1, 2023
18th Sunday after Pentecost
World Communion Sunday



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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 11:15AM

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CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in G Minor
(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)

J. S. Bach

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

We approach the table today but we don't approach it alone. We approach it on this World Communion Sunday with Christians around the world, in congregations large and small, speaking every language and one language. Be of one mind, the mind of Christ. Be of one Spirit, the Spirit of God's love. Be of one purpose as beloved people of God. The Spirit of love gathers us in, binding us together as one.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing'

No. 57 vs. 1, 2, & 3

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Our world is so divided, fragmented by anger and hate.

People: Lord, draw us together at the table of our Lord.

HYMN

'Bind Us Together'

TFWS No. 2226

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.
There is only one God, there is only one King;
There is only one body, that is why we sing...**

Pastor: Heal our wounds and build bridges of help and hope for all people.

People: Lord, meet us at the table and feed us with your healing words.

HYMN

'Bind Us Together'

TFWS No. 2226

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.
There is only one God, there is only one King;
There is only one body, that is why we sing...**

Pastor: Lord, call us together to feast on your mercy and goodness.

People: Nourish us with words of peace that we may go into your world with love and compassion for all your people.

HYMN

'Bind Us Together'

TFWS No. 2226

**Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.
There is only one God, there is only one King;
There is only one body, that is why we sing...**

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, we gather with Christians all around the world to receive your nourishing words of hope and peace. Be with us as we seek your will and wisdom. AMEN.

INTROIT

'You Satisfy the Hungry Heart'

No. 629 (Refrain only)

**You satisfy the hungry heart with gift of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord,
The bread of life to eat.**

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'

No. 601 (Refrain only)

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."

FIRST LESSON

Philippians 2: 1-13

Pastor: 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"

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

People: and also with you.

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Matthew 21: 23-32

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

'What Do You Think'

Pastor Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: From the ends of the earth God has gathered us around Christ's Holy Table.

People: We come to feast with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Pastor: May God have mercy on His Church, troubled and divided.

People: May God renew us and make us one.

GENERAL CONFESSION

Gracious Lord, you created the whole world and called it good, but we look out at your world and see division and suffering. You call us to maintain the unity of spirit in the bond of peace, but we choose division over diversity, confrontation over civility, conflict over peace born from justice. You call us to love the least of these among us, but we hear the cries of the oppressed and choose our own comfort. We allow senseless suffering rather than sacrifice for our neighbors. Forgive us. Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ. Rekindle in us your gifts — the spirit of power, love and self-discipline — that with faith in Christ, we might be made new and be part of bringing forth your peaceable kingdom. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: God, in Christ, breaks down the walls that makes us strangers to ourselves and divides us from one another. We are the body of Christ. Around this Table, we enact our faith and hope. The body broken is restored to wholeness; lifeblood poured out, brings healing to our world,

All: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF ASURANCE

'Victory in Jesus'

No. 370 V. 1

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

'Agnus Dei'

Francois Couperin

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Fount of blessing, you pour upon us the abundance of your grace. Bless us and these gifts, that they may be a source of blessing to others, in the name Jesus Christ. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION

This Table is for all of us, near and far, high and low, east and west and north and south.
This Table is for all of us, but it is not our Table. It's not a United Methodist Table. It's not an American Table.
It's God's table, for all of us, and it's a Table of grace. So come and take your place at the Table. You are welcome, you are invited, you are called: come, let us share this meal together.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE SURSUM CORDA

It is pure delight to be in your presence, Lord. It is amazing to think of joining with Christians all over the world to celebrate the new life we all enjoy in Christ Jesus our Lord. You have made us one family. You have given us brothers and sisters and you love us all as your own and expect us to love one another as family.

And so, as your family on earth, together with the members of your family in heaven, we join together and give to you our unending song of praise.

SANCTUS

(Sung to the tune NICA Holy, Holy, Holy, No. 64)

*Holy! Holy! Holy! One God Almighty!
All your works shall praise your name
In earth and sky and sea!
Holy! Holy! Holy! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is Christ who comes to set us free.*

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Pastor: Jesus took a loaf of bread and broke it saying, "This is my body broken for you."

People: May the one loaf symbolize our unity with Christians wherever they may be.

Pastor: Jesus said, "Take eat, in remembrance of me."

People: May there be room at the Table for all his followers. May we share in this sacrament together.

HYMN

'One Bread, One Body'

No. 620, Refrain

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.*

Pastor: Jesus took the cup and said, "This is the cup of the new covenant shed for you.

People: May we claim the covenant of love and forgiveness as we partake of the cup.

Pastor: Jesus said, "Drink this in remembrance of me."

People: May we remember Jesus' love for all as we share this sacrament with Christians around the world on this special day.

HYMN

'One Bread, One Body

No. 620, Refrain

***One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we though many throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.***

Pastor: And so in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and Thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us as we proclaim the Mystery of faith.

HYMN

'He is Lord'

No. 177

***He is Lord, he is Lord!
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord.
Every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.***

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pastor: We come to this Table, knowing that God created us and loves us all.

People: We come to this Table, knowing Jesus died for us all.

Pastor: We come to this Table, knowing that God's Spirit sustains us all.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we may know ourselves as children of holiness and light. Pour out your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may become for us the light of your presence and the truth of your grace. Through the Holy Spirit make us brothers and sisters of holiness, and children of mercy and grace. Welcome us into your presence from every corner of the earth and unite us across space and time with the great cloud of witnesses, through your creative power and love, make us one in Christ's ministry, one creation, one family, begotten and beloved by you. **Amen!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to your holy table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your great mercy. We are not worthy even to gather the crumbs from under your table, but only say the word and we shall be healed.

LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei)

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,
grant us your peace.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we offer our thanks, for the whole communion of Saint's witness to this feast, and for the ministry of churches around the world who gather with us today. By this broken bread may we

each be restored for the work yet to come. By this shared cup may we each be claimed for the proclamation of your Kingdom. At this shared table may we be united as children of your promise, children of your word, dying and made new again, sent boldly together into the world as servants of your peace. Amen

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

You were called to this table. You were fed at this table. You were united at this table. Now, you are sent from this table into all the world. Go therefore into the world, with courage. Set a place for all who hunger. Fill the cup of all who thirst. And as you go, May the Spirit of power and love attend you, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ uphold you, and may the great faithfulness of our God sustain you, now and forever. Amen



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'
A-men, a-men, a – men.

No 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'O God of Every Nation'
(Sung to the tune of 'Help Us Accept Each Other' No. 560)

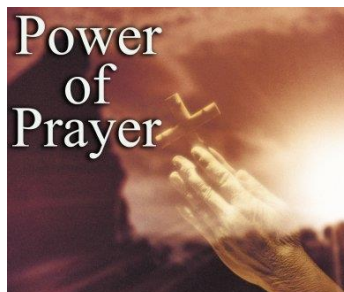
No. 435 V. 1 & 4

*POSTLUDE

'Allegro (from Water Music)n'

G. F. Handel

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD



Morris's children
Ginnie White - medical issues
Those who need prayers and don't ask
People who are traveling
People of Morocco - Earthquake
John McQuade- recovery from multiple surgeries
Those affected by fires and those still missing in Maui, Hawaii
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 (Viehlund's friend) - recovery from multiple surgery
Seth (Robert Morris's son) - accident
President Carter—in hospice
Jim White (Ginnie's son) - recovery from rotator cuff surgery
Steven Akers—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
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