

*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 "When It Is Easier Said Than Done" Rev. Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In gratitude for all the abundant blessings you have showered upon us, we celebrate as we receive our morning offering.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Lord, you have blessed our lives in so many ways. In gratitude for all these blessings and in confidence that our gifts will be used for ministries of peace and hope, we offer these gifts. AMEN.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Who is like our majestic God? The One who is wonder-worker and awesome in splendor.

People: No other!

Pastor: God calls to us to join the holy work of making the world right.

People: We will live for God and for God's world in all we do. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'God Be with You till We Meet Again'

No. 672 V. 1 & 4

*POSTLUDE

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

September 17, 2023

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Russel's contact information:

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Pastor Russel is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.



The Unforgiving Servant
Matthew 18:21-35

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, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

O God, you are our strength and our salvation. You uphold and save us. We offer you our very lives.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Crown Him with Many Crowns' No. 327

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Sing to God, for God has triumphed gloriously!

People: God is our strength and our might!

Pastor: Long ago God freed the slaves from Egypt, opening passage through the Red Sea waters.

People: Here and now, God is our salvation, leading us through dangerous waters.

Pastor: Who is like our God, majestic in holiness and awesome in splendor?

People: Every knee shall bow, every voice shall praise the God of wonder.

OPENING PRAYER

We sing to you, O God, for you have been our strength. You open the waters of suffering and lead us safely through. You uphold us in times of deep distress and we exalt your holy name. Receive our honor and thanks, mighty God. Amen.

INTROIT 'His Name Is Wonderful' No. 174

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess to God and before one another our sins and especially our lack of faith and refusal to offer the forgiveness we seek for ourselves.

GENERAL CONFESSION

When we hear praises of your past help and triumph, we wonder where you are today, O God. We look at our lives and see hurtful relationships. We look at our nation and see communities suffering under oppression. We look at our world and see injustice and brutality. We need your mighty arm to shatter wrongdoing and corruption. When we are weak, strengthen our faith. When we despair, renew our hope. When we give up, stand us up in your just cause, that we might live for you. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We stand before God—a God of justice, a God of forgiveness and acceptance. This God raises us up and upholds us in our living. Praise be to God!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE 'He Touched Me' No. 367

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 Romans 14: 1-12

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 18:21-35