

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON "When We Don't Like the Answer to the Test." Pastor Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Because God has so richly blessed us, let us receive our morning offering in gratitude for all God has done and continues to do in our lives.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

These offerings we present to you, O Lord. May they be used for ministries of love and reconciliation through this community of faith. AMEN.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Just as God has called us here, God now sends us forth.
People: Just as God has joined us here, God goes with us now.
Pastor: Go with the power of God to love and serve the world.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE 'Danish Amen' No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 'Jesus, Jesus' No. 432

*POSTLUDE

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
15th Sunday after Pentecost



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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, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

Place your hope and trust in the Lord, whose faithful love watches over you.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee'

No. 89

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We come from far and near to this community of faith.

People: Lord, draw us together in celebration of your love.

HYMN: 'God Is Here' No. 660 V. 1
(Sung to the tune of 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling' No. 384)

*God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.*

Pastor: We are young, older, middle aged.

People: We are rich, comfortable, poor, struggling,

HYMN: 'God Is Here' No. 660 V. 3
(Sung to the tune of 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling' No. 384)

*Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship
to explore what it means in daily living
To believe and to adore.*

Pastor: Now is the time of Celebration! God is with us!

People: Now is the time of Rejoicing! God's love is poured over us!

HYMN: 'God Is Here' No. 660 V. 4
(Sung to the tune of 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling' No. 384)

*Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt keep us faithful to the gospel;
Help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
All we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you,
We adore you! We believe!*

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of mercy and light, you have called us out of the darkness of our lives into the light of your love. Your love encourages and sustains us always. We praise and thank you for all the blessings we have received throughout our lives. It is in Jesus' name that we pray. AMEN.

INTROIT 'There's Something About That Name' 'No. 171

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Prepare your hearts and spirits to receive God's mercy and healing.

GENERAL CONFESSION

Gracious God, amidst our songs of joy, our hearts are touched by fear. Sin plagues our world, even as we strive to build your realm. Sorrow enters our lives, even as we put on false smiles and engage in empty conversations. Death lurks around every corner, even as we struggle against our own mortality. Reconcile us with your love and compassion, and bless us with your compassionate presence, that we may be filled with joy, love, and hope this day. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Be assured that it's never too late! The God of Love, and Christ the storyteller, remind us to listen, understand, and act. Prepare your hearts as garden beds for God's seeds of joy and hope. Receive God's grace today and every day.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE 'How Great Thou Art' No. 77 V. 3

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 13: 8-14

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 18:15-20

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70