

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

October 29, 2023

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Russel's contact information:
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Pastor Russel is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.



CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON 'Living Out Jesus' Commandments' Pastor Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY 'Agni's Dei' Francois Couperin

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, you have given us mercy. You have given us love. You have been our calling, and you have been our home. Receive now our hands and feet, O God, and use them for your purposes. Receive now the offering of our hearts, minds, and souls. Transform them into your love, your mercy, and your everlasting grace for all the world. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

People of God, go forth into the world. Love God. Love your neighbors. Love yourselves. Go forth as people of love. AMEN.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE 'Danish Amen' No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 'Let There Be Peace on Earth' No. 431

*POSTLUDE 'Allegro from Water Music' G. F. Handel

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

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.

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CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE 'Offertoire sur les grand jeux' Francois Couperin
(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

Answer your greatest call: to love God with all that you are, and to love your neighbor as you love yourself. Do this and God will prosper the work of your hands.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name' No. 154, Vs. 1, 4 & 6

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God has been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: Before the mountains were brought forth.

Pastor: before the earth and sky were formed,

People: God was from everlasting to everlasting.

Pastor: We come to worship this day,

People: that God may gather in us.

Pastor: We will be close to God's heart,

People: and we will dwell in God's grace.

Pastor: We will love God fully,

People: and we will love one another well.

OPENING PRAYER

God of Life, your memory is longer than time; your love longer still. Your giving nature amazes us. You have given us yourself. You have given us your work. You only ask for love in return, for you and for the world. You put your ministry into our hands, trusting us to be your hands. Bless the work of our hands and the ministries of our hearts, O God, as we seek to do your will. Amen.

INTROIT 'Take My Life, and Let It Be' No. 399

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

May we prepare our hearts and spirits to received God's mercy and healing.

GENERAL CONFESSION

Merciful God, it isn't easy for us to follow the commandments of loving. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors. But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, turning them away from those who need our love. We place a test before you, asking that you prove your love to us, or we threaten not to believe in you. Please forgive us for this foolishness and stubbornness. Give us the courage to be people who will care for others. Let us dedicate our lives in your service, always aware of your awesome love for us. This we ask in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

When we lose our way, when we are confused and confounded, God waits with compassion, to turn us back to love, to grace, to God's own face. Even before we ask for mercy, God has already forgiven us. Good sweeps away our mistakes and misdeeds and calls us home.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE 'It Is Well With My Soul' No. 377, 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 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8

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 22: 34-46

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 70