

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON 'What is the Bottom Line?' Rev. Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In gratitude for all that we have received, let us offer our gifts and tithes to the Lord this day.
AMEN.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY 'Concerto in D Major' Georg Frederic Handel III. Adagio

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Washed in your peace and love, O God, we bring our gifts to you. Bless the gifts and the lives that they represent, that all may be used in your service and to your glory. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: You are the light of the world!

People: We will shine with love as the stars shine with glory.

Pastor: You are the light of the world!

People: We will reveal God's brilliance in word and deed.

Pastor: As we move forward to what lies ahead,

People: we will press on toward the goal of love.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE 'Danish Amen' No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 'Shalom to You' No.666

*POSTLUDE 'Recessional' Frank W. Asper

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

October 8, 2023
19th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Russel's contact information:

Phone: (412) 735-5072 Email: Shulugarussel@gmail.com

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 "Organ Sonata in D Minor" Josef Rheinberger II. Cantilena
(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

Christ the cornerstone welcomes us to this house of God. May our minds perceive God's word, even as our hearts receive God's love. May God's Spirit bless us with wisdom and faith.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'The Church's One Foundation' No. 545 VS. 1, 2, & 4

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come away from the rush and worry of the world to worship God.

People: **We come seeking peace and quiet for our souls.**

HYMN

'Near to the Heart of God'

No.472 V. 1

**There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God;
A place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.
O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
Hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.**

Pastor: Come. Rest your hearts and spirits in the presence of the Lord.

People: **Give peace to our hearts, O Lord.**

HYMN

'Near to the Heart of God'

No.472 V. 2

**There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God;
A place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.
O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
Hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.**

Pastor: Rest your spirits. Quiet your hearts. God is with us.

People: **Praise be to God who calls us to come away.**

HYMN

'Near to the Heart of God'

No.472 V. 3

**There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God;
A place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.
O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,
Hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.**

OPENING PRAYER

Holy Spirit, heavenly God, shine upon us with the wisdom of ancient words. Enlighten our minds, that we may perceive your presence. Strengthen our resolve that we may press toward growth in love and faith. Help us grow closer to your likeness each and every day. Amen.

INTROIT

'Spirit of the Living God'

No. 393

CHILDREN' MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

GENERAL CONFESSION

We keep slamming into walls, O merciful God, when we are left to our own devices. Throughout our faith history, your Son offered words of healing and hope to people who dwelled in darkness. In the brilliant light of his love, people grew and flourished. But now, Lord, we find that this world dominates our lives. We are troubled, angry, and fearful. We want to see your presence in the world, but we spend far too much time looking for the "big picture" rather than seeing the myriad of ways in which your love and healing power is shown. Forgive us when we grow impatient with you and with the course of things in our lives. Heal our wounds and put us back on pathways of peace and service. Enable us to speak your words of hope in this darkened world. We ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the words of hope! Though the days seem to darken quickly, the brilliant light of your love and presence will always be a guide and comfort to us. This is the Good News of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'My Hope Is Built'

No. 368 V. 1

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

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

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: 33-46

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70