

South Avenue and Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Churches



ALL SAINT'S SUNDAY November 5, 2023

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. **Large Print Bulletins:** We have bulletins in **LARGE** print available. Please ask an usher for one. 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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Order of Worship
CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: A thousand days are but a moment to God;

People: All flesh is grass, and withers away.

Pastor: Still, we treasure our days with those whom we love.

People: And reluctantly give them back to God.

Pastor: On this day, we thank God for the saints in our lives.

PRELUDE

‘Meditation’

Don McAfee

(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)

CHIMES AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*OPENING HYMN

‘How Great Thou Art’

No. 77

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow’r thru-out the universe displayed!*

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

*When thru the woods and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze,*

(Refrain)

*And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in –
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin!*

(Refrain)

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!*

(Refrain)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This day revives in us memories of loved ones, who are no more. What happiness we shared when they walked among us. What joy, when, loving and being loved, we lived our lives together.

People: Their memory is a blessing forever.

Response:

“Blessed Are They”

TFWS No. 2155 (Refrain only)

***Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!***

Pastor: Months or years may have passed, and still we feel near to them. Our hearts yearn for them. Though the bitter grief has softened, a duller pain abides; for the place where once they stood is empty now. The links of life are broken, but the links of love and longing cannot break.

People: Their souls are bound up in ours forever.

Response: "Blessed Are They" TFWs No. 2155 (Refrain only)
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Pastor: We see them now with the eye of memory, their faults forgiven, their virtues grown larger. So does goodness live, and weakness fade from sight. We remember them with gratitude and bless their names.

People: Their memory is a blessing forever.

Response: "Blessed Are They" TFWs No. 2155 (Refrain only)
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Pastor: And we remember, as well the members, who but yesterday were part of our congregation and community. To all who cared for us and labored for all people, we pay tribute. May we prove worthy of carrying on the tradition of our faith, for now the task is ours.

People: Their souls are bound up in ours forever.

Response: "Blessed Are They" TFWs No. 2155 (Refrain only)
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

Pastor: We give you thanks they now live and reign with you. As a great crowd of witnesses, they surround us with their blessings, and offer you hymns of praise and thanksgiving.

People: They are alive forever more.

Response: "Blessed Are They" TFWs No. 2155 (Refrain only)
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal and Compassionate God, who wipes away the tears from our eyes and removes our sorrow with the promise that our loved ones live on in you, we give you thanks not only for those close to us who have gone on before us to be with you, but for all those saints who by their writings and their lives have enabled us to see more of the light of the knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus the Christ. We beseech you, Lord, that with them and with all the host of the redeemed, we may perfectly praise you in your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INTROIT

"Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit" Carolyn Gillette
(Nettleton 8.7.8.7 D 'Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

*Blessed are the poor in spirit; all God's realm is surely theirs.
Those in mourning will find comfort as an answer to their prayers.
Meek ones whom this world despises will inherit everything.
God, your kingdom still surprises; may we seek the reign you bring.*

*Blessed, too, are those who hunger and who thirst for what is right.
They will not be prone to wander, for your will is their delight.
Those who show God's care and mercy will receive that mercy too.
God, in Christ you show us clearly of the joy we have in you.*

*Those who share the peace God gives them will find blessings as God's own.
Those oppressed for faithful living will call heaven's kingdom Home.
When the world's ways seem distressing and we feel life's painful sting.
God remind us of the blessings of the wondrous life you bring.*

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

'Life Me Up'

Andy Beck

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Receive these offerings that we bring before your altar today, as we remember those who have gone before, those who are present now, and those who will be here after us. All of us share in your great work. May that work be advanced by our combined efforts across time into eternity. These things we pray in your wonderful name, God of glory, God of time, God of the living, both those who live in this world, and those who dwell richly in your kingdom. Amen.

HEARING

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

“The Word”

No. 601 (Refrain only)

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

FIRST LESSON

Revelation 21-1-7

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALTER

“Psalm 23, Response, “Shepherd Me, O God”
*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.*

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Pastor: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
People: He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.
Pastor: He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.
People: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.*

Pastor: Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
People: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

*Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.*

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Alleluia”

No. 186

“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia”

*GOSPEL LESSON

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 5: 1-12

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

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

*GLORIA PATRI

“Glory Be to the Father”

No. 70

*Glory Be to the Father and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen, Amen.*

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

HOMILY

‘A Whole New World’

Pastor Russel Shuluga

HYMN

‘Hymn of Promise’

No. 707

*In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
in the cold and snow of winter, there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
from the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

*In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing, in our life, eternity.
in our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

**CELEBRATION THROUGH REMEMBERING
(CELEBRATING OUR SAINTS)**

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor: We have gathered to celebrate the lives of those who died in the last year.

People: **We give thanks for their lives; we receive their deaths as gifts; we commend their spirits to God’s eternal being.**

Pastor: The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and there, no evil can touch them.

People: **They are in peace, and their hope is full of immortality.**

Pastor: Let us recall all the saints who have found peace, the shalom in which they now rest.

NAMING OF THE HONORED DEAD

(As each name is read, friends and family are invited to stand. A family member(s) is/are invited to come forward to light a memorial candle and receive a flower.

Our Honored Saints:

With thanksgiving we remember.... **Fred T. Arbogast, Allen Bankson, Jake Blaker, Carol Brown, Jack Anton Martz, Jack Allen Morrow, Phyllis A. Penwell, Wendy Sue Perrott, Amanda Petronio, Charlene J. Phillips**

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE CONTINUES...

Pastor: We surrender to God these Saints whom we have named and commend them to God’s everlasting care.

People: **Embrace them in your loving arms, O God, so that empowered by your Spirit, this great cloud of witnesses may continue to inspire and guide us by their legacy and their love. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHIMING OF THE BELLS

(The bells will ring seven times, which, in the scriptures, denotes completeness, wholeness and perfection)

LITANY OF HOPE AND GRACE

Pastor: Blessed are the dead who die in Christ from henceforth,
People: that they may rest from their labors, for their works shall follow them.
Pastor: Do not be ignorant, friends, concerning those who fall asleep.
People: That you sorrow not as those who have no hope;
Pastor: for if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
People: even so, those who have fallen asleep in Jesus will God receive.
Pastor: Jesus said, "In God's house are many rooms....for I go to prepare place for you."
People: "I will not leave you desolate, I will come to you."
Pastor: "The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, shall teach you all things, and bring to you remembrance of all that I have said to you."
People: "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."

ANTHEM

'Be Not Afraid'

South Avenue UMC Chancel Choir

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: We bless our God's name, for all God's servants who, having finished their course, now rest from their labors.
People: May God give us grace to follow the example of their steadfastness and faithfulness, that our gracious God might be glorified.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Danish Amen"

No. 898

*CLOSING HYMN

"When We All Get to Heaven"

No. 701, Vs. 1 & 4

1.

*Sing, the wondrous love of Jesus
Sing His mercy and His grace
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.*

REFRAIN:

*When we all get to heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory!*

4.

*Onward to the prize before us!
Soon his beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open;
We shall tread the streets of gold.*

REFRAIN

*POSTLUDE

'Bunessan (Morning Has Broken)'

P. Rodriguez

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF JESUS INTO THE WORLD

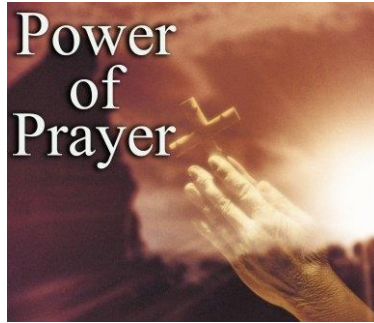
South Avenue United Methodist Church

The Altar Flowers are presented by Mary Lou Whitezell in loving memory of
Albert, Ken and Natalie Whitezell

POWER OF PRAYER

All essential workers
Amy Mroz
Bill Bauer – friend of Shirley & Frank Oratto
Families of school shootings
Families of racial violence
Families of earthquake victims and first responders
Barbara – Dontae Pendelton's grandmother
Belinda & Doug Bishop
Bill Clor – friend of Shirley and Frank Oratto
Caleb Scott Ingram & family - Bob & Sharon Beattie's great nephew
Deborah Webb
Delores and Michael Deaney – friends of the Church
Denise Hansen – Ruth Nelson's niece
Donald Beck & Charlotte Beck
Dontae – long term care and recovery
Dorothy Hawkins
Friends serving on front lines as first responders/medical professionals
Garnet Hildebrand - Longwood Circle
Holly Davis
Israel and the hostages currently being held by the Hamas terrorists, people of Gaza, and everyone
displaced and impacted by the war.
Janette Nelson – Ruth Nelson's sister
Joanne and Marv Chidester
Josefina and Tom Morrissey – friends of Ruth Nelson
Kathy Stonebraker – sister in law of Frances Hardic
Mary Lou Whitezell
Our military and all people throughout the Middle East
Randy Johnson
Ruth Nelson
Susan Howe
The Peace Makers
Ukraine: its people, animals and very earth, as well as those offering help & refuge
United Methodist Denomination
Vincent Mroz
Virginia Atkinson
Wilma Jones Cox
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Reverend Paul Richey— Pittsburgh District Superintendent
Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian
Pastor Russel Shuluga
South Avenue UMC

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church



Maine mass shooting
Middle East conflict
Harry (Mifflin Avenue custodian) - recovery from surgery
Morris's children
Ginnie White – prayers
Those who need prayers and don't ask for prayers
People who are traveling
People of Morocco - Earthquake
John McQuade- recovery at home from surgeries
Those affected by fires 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
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 (Viehland'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
United Methodist Church