

THE GOSPEL IS READ

Matthew 25:14-30

*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

'All Our Choices' (Part 1)

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 filled our lives with the protection of faith, the guidance of love, and the hope of a salvation without end. Take our lives, Holy One—our time, our talent, and our treasure—and use them to encourage the hopeless, to build up the broken, and to heal the wounded souls in our 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

'Chacon's'

Louis Couperin

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

November 19, 2023

25th Sunday after Pentecost



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.

Pastor Russel's contact information:

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Email: Shulugarussel@gmail.com

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

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE 'voluntary in g major' William Walton
(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

We lift our eyes to the Lord. We raise our voices in songs and speech. We raise our voices in prayer and praise. May the Lord, hear our prayers and accept our praise. May the Lord, open our hearts and minds in this time of worship to receive the Lord's blessings of peace.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'All People That on Earth Do Dwell' No. 75

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come to the house of the Lord. Come with your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service.

People: We bring the gift of prayer to this house. We raise to God our hopes and our fears, our wounds and our triumphs.

Pastor: We bring the gift of our presence, being together in worship and fellowship, work and witness.

People: We bring the gift of our tokens, given freely from our hearts to be used in service to God.

Pastor: We bring the gift of service, commitment of our time and talents to serve God by working in God's world.

OPENING PRAYER

Awesome God, you created the world and all that is in it. You blessed each element of creation with your love. You called us from slavery into witness and service. Be with us this day as we gather to worship. Clear our minds of all the distractions which would draw us away from you. Open our hearts and spirits and let your healing and empowering love flow in. Prepare us to be witnesses to your power and love as we use the gifts with which you have blessed us in your service. For we offer this prayer in the name of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

INTROIT Holy, Holy, Holy! Bell Choir

CHILDREN'S 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 are not always awake, O God. We are not always aware. We do not always pay attention—to others, even to you. We do not always treasure your blessings—the gifts you give to us, the time you spend with us, the people you offer us, the work you entrust to us. We take it for granted, God. We take you for granted. We wander away. Help us wake up, Holy One. Remind us to be aware. Show us the way back to you. And help us find meaning in you once more. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The God of mercy hears our prayers and holds them close. When we wander away into places of death and despair, God is always ready to bring us back. For no matter where we go or what we do, we belong to God and God is there for us. We belong to the one who clothes us in faith and hope and love. We are held so close in God's hand that nothing can ever tear us away.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'My Tribute' No. 99

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 5:1-11

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.