

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

This is our time of offering, where we respond with gratitude to all that God has given us. Let us take a moment to consider what gifts we will bring and what commitments to action we will make this week.

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM 'Allegro' Samuel Sebastian Wesley

\*DOXOLOGY No. 95

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Restorer of divided hearts, bless our gifts this morning. Make our offering a path to holy living and action. May our very lives reflect the truth of our faith and our commitment to your world. With generous hearts, we pray. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Christ is calling us forth.

**People: We walk in the footsteps of the disciples who went before us.**

Pastor: Christ is calling us forth.

**People: We go with the blessings of God who leads us into life.**



\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE 'Danish Amen' No. 898

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

\*POSTLUDE 'Rigaudon' Andre Campra

***WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD***

## Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

January 21, 2024

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany



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

### CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE 'Hymn to the Light of Christ' Joseph Willan

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

Gathered in worship with silence and sound, we wait upon God's grace.

### CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'God of Love and God of Power' No. 578

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Gather this day in silence and hope.

**People: We wait for God's word for us.**

Pastor: Let your hearts and spirits be open.

**People: God is our strength and salvation.**

Pastor: Wait patiently for the Lord.

**People: With willing hearts and spirits we wait for the Lord. AMEN.**

OPENING PRAYER

**Loving God, for you alone our souls wait in silence. You are our shelter in the storm, our hope in times of trial. When our courage falters, be our rock and our fortress. When all hope seems lost, lift us up in the arms of your salvation that we might lift up others. Be our true home, O God, that silent place in our souls where prayers are answered and peace is found. Amen.**

INTROIT 'Rock of Ages' No. 361, Vs. 1 & 3

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

**Holy God, we would rather proclaim death to our enemies, than see them forgiven and redeemed. Forgive our hardness of heart, O God, and our reluctance to see your divine image in those who hate and despise us. Teach us to love our enemies, that our lives may proclaim your truth—that love is stronger than hate, and mercy is greater than vengeance. We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: Jesus came to save the world, not to condemn it. We who were dead to our sins have been raised to newness of life through Jesus who is the Lord of Life.

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 heart;

**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 Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

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. Mark

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL IS READ Mark 1: 14-20

\*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 'The Jonah in All of Us' Pastor Russel Shuluga