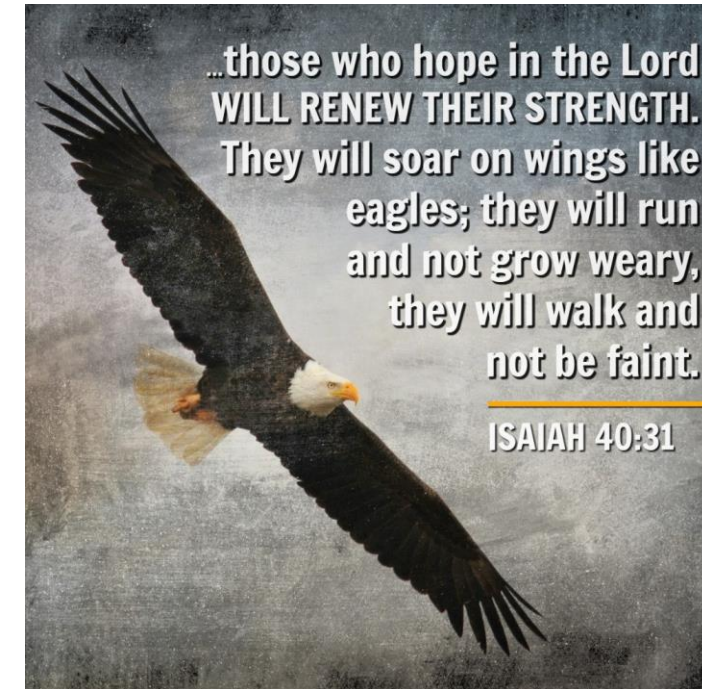


**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**  
**February 4, 2024**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany**

Nancy Shuluga  
Shuluga Family  
Family and friends of Dorothy Hawkins – passed away  
Those affected by violence  
Middle East conflict  
Morris's children  
Ginnie White - prayers for good health  
Those who need prayers and don't ask for prayers  
People who are traveling  
Roberta (Carolyn's friend) - diagnosed with early dementia  
Those affected by COVID, RSV and the FLU  
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  
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  
People of Ukraine  
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church



Pastor Russel 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 11:15am

---

**CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING**

PRELUDE 'Prelude and Fugue in C Major' J. S. Bach

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

Those who trust God will rise up with wings like eagles.

**CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION**

\*OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty' No. 139

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told to you from the beginning?

**People: The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: God sits above the circle of the earth and stretches out the heavens like a curtain.

**People: Those who wait for the Lord shall mount up with wings like eagles.**

Pastor: They shall run and not be weary.

**People: They shall walk and not faint.**

Pastor: How good it is to sing praises to our God.

OPENING PRAYER

**Holy One, we come to you, listening for your word of compassion. Renew us with your strength. Empower us with your love. Guide us in your ways, that we may know you and worship you, our everlasting God. Amen.**

INTROIT 'Majesty, Worship His Majesty' No. 176

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC 'Wade in the Water' Children's Ensemble

**CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING**

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Though our lives often seem overwhelming,

**People: in God, we shall mount up with wings like eagles.**

Pastor: Though our responsibilities weigh us down,

**People: in Christ, we shall run and not be weary.**

Pastor: Though injustice and discord sap our strength,

**People: in the Spirit, we shall walk and not faint.**



\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

No 898

***A-men, a-men, a – men.***

\*RECESSIONAL HYM

'Great Is thy Faithfulness'

No. 140, V. 1

\*POSTLUDE

'Choral Song'

S. S. Wesley

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

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### GENERAL CONFESSION

**Holy God, even in our pursuit of safety and security, we yearn to seek justice for the poor and to defend the downtrodden from the privilege of the powerful. Give us the heart of Jesus, that we may care for the sick and rescue the perishing. Give us the spirit of Christ, that we may spend time in prayer and keep your path before our feet. Give us the love of your Son, that we may be instruments of your peace. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus has come to heal our spirits and our souls. New life is offered to you in Jesus Christ. Rejoice! Be Glad! For God's love is poured out to you this day. AMEN.

#### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'He Touched Me'

No. 367

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

'Chorale Prelude: Blessed Jesus at thy word'

J. G. Walther

#### \*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

#### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Creator of heaven and earth, you shower the earth with rain, nourish the land with sunshine, and bless your people with goodness. Receive the gifts we bring before you this day, that they may touch the world with gladness and bring help to those in need. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### THE SURSUM CORDA

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we maybe for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence. We have been led, Eternal One, by your light. May we bask in this glow now and forevermore. Amen**

## 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

Isaiah 40: 21-31  
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

Mark1: 29-39

### \*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 Temptation to Give Up'

Pastor Russel Shuluga

### HYMN

'On Eagles Wings'

No. 187