

Bless us also who eat and drink, that in this sharing we may know the living Christ who is with us now, and to the end of the age. Nourish us by these gifts to be willing servants of your world until the new age [or, kingdom] comes, and every creature beholds it.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG)

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you, merciful God, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendors of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made our own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion —oneness of heart, love for neighbors, forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day, and life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Blessed by God's wisdom,

People: we go forth refreshed and renewed.

Pastor: Called by Christ,

People: we go now to serve.

Pastor: Amazed by God's love,

People: we go now to love.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Bless the Lord'

TFWS No. 2013

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Jesus, Name above All Names'

TFWS No. 2071

*POSTLUDE

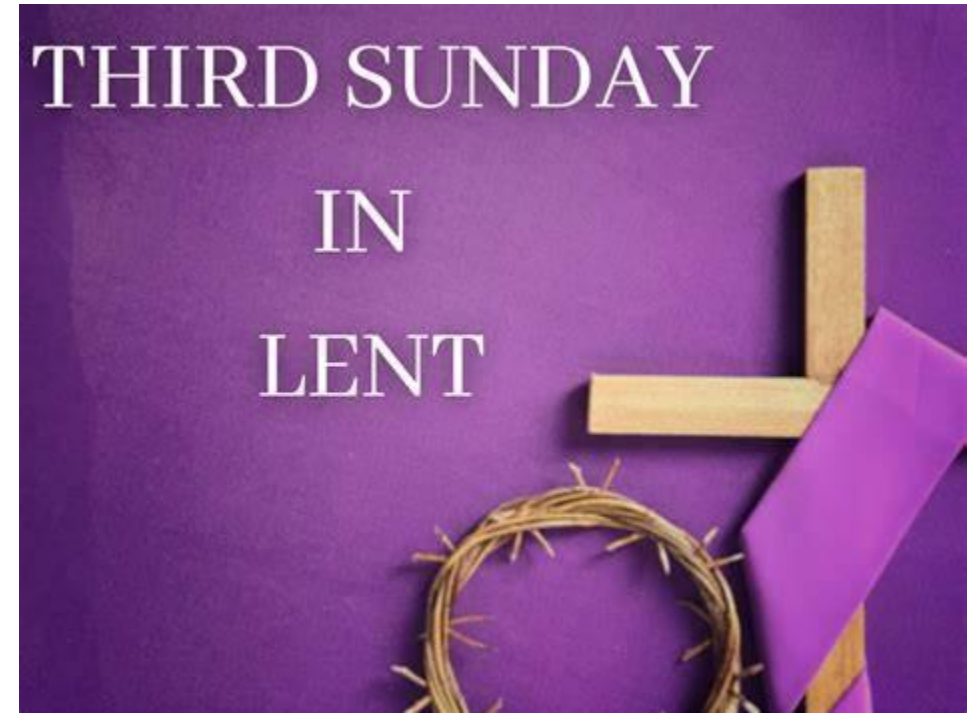
Chorale: "O sacred head sore wounded"

J.S. Bach

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

March 3, 2024



Pastor Russel contact information:

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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

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CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE 'Voluntary: "Jesu, joy of man's desiring" J. S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

CENTERING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT
'Jesus, Remember me' No 488 (sing 3X)

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This is the third step on our Lenten Journey.

People: It is on this journey that we will face our greed and selfishness.

Pastor: Listen! Jesus is calling to us.

HYMN: 'Jesus Calls Us' No. 398 V. 1

***Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying "Christian, follow me!***

Pastor: It is on this journey that God will confront us.

People: Our hearts are ready to receive God.

Pastor: Let go of all those things which have bound you away from Jesus. Believe, and live!

HYMN: 'Jesus Calls Us' No. 398 V. 3

***Jesus call us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more!***

Pastor: Come, then, and let us move forward toward the Cross.

People: Let us faithfully and confidently follow Jesus. AMEN.

HYMN: 'Jesus Calls Us' No. 398 V. 4

***Jesus Calls us! By thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
Give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.***

Now, O God, we remember Jesus.

Silence...

He fasted and prayed; he was tempted and tried.

He relied on you for everything.

He was obedient to you and scorned by the powers of this world.

He confounded the haughty and gave hope to the humble.

He was betrayed and deserted. He died between thieves and was buried in a borrowed grave.

You gave him new life. He lives even now, our healer and friend.

He loved us well, loved us to the end, and loves us still.

Even on the night of betrayal, he ate supper with his friends.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

**Christ died, taking up his cross and following God;
Christ was raised, the covenant promise fulfilled;
Christ will come, declaring "God has done it!"**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Holy Spirit, come! Make all things new. Bless this bread which you have given and human hands have made. Let it become for us the bread of life.

Bless also this cup, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. Let it become for us the cup of salvation.

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON	'What a Wonderful World'	Rev. Russel Shuluga
HYMN	"I Am Thine, O Lord"	No. 419, V. 1

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins before our merciful God and beg for God's pardon on this Lenten journey.

GENERAL CONFESSION

Hear the commandments of God:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of bondage.

You shall have no other gods before me.

Lord, forgive our idolatry.

You shall not make for yourself any idol.

Lord, forgive us for chasing lesser gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Lord, forgive our blasphemy.

Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.

Lord, forgive our forgetfulness.

Honor your father and your mother.

Lord, forgive us for neglecting our elders.

You shall not murder.

Lord, forgive us for celebrating violence.

You shall not commit adultery.

Lord, forgive our lustful hearts.

You shall not steal.

Lord, forgive us for oppressing the poor.

You shall not be a false witness.

Lord, forgive our lying lips.

You shall not covet.

Lord, forgive our greedy hearts.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God promises forgiveness, that we may be blameless and innocent of any transgression. Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE 'O Lord, Your Tenderness' TFWS No 2143 (2X)

SHARING THE PEACE

The Lord continues to bring God's people from slavery into freedom. Through the power of the cross of Christ, we are being saved. May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share signs of peace with one another.

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

It is easy to offer our money and our gold, but God desires our hearts and our lives. Even as we offer our gifts in the offering plates this day, let us reflect on how we might give our hearts and lives, so that others may know the truth of God's wisdom and love.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Adagio (from Sonata No.2)" Felix Mendelssohn

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

OFFERTORY PRAYER

May the gifts we bring be gifts of love. May the offerings we share be offerings of our hearts. May each gift be blessed by your grace, that others may know the truth of your wisdom and your love. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION

Dear friends, we are going to Jerusalem with Jesus.

He is our pardon, our healing, and our peace!

We will suffer the trial with him, resisting evil.

With him, we will walk the path to life.

But come first to the table where there is food for the journey.

With hearts full of joy we come,

giving thanks to God, our maker,

and offering our praise!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The God of the Lenten journey be with you.

And also with you.

Open your hearts to God, heirs of the covenant.

We open them to the One who fills them with promise.

Let us lift glad songs to our exceedingly faithful God.

Our praise will resound in this great congregation.

THE SURSUM CORDA

We are right to praise you, faithful God! You answer sin with grace; you guide our wayward steps toward home. You are mending for the broken, safety for the poor, belonging for the outcast, strength for the weak, and pardon for the sinner. You reveal your kindness in every sorrow, your mercy even in death. All your creatures see your works; they sing your steadfast love. We too declare your wonder and grace as with angels and saints we say:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy are you, God who calls us by new names.

All creation praises your surpassing wonders.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes to us for our sake.

Hosanna in the highest!

REMEMBERING AND GIVING THANKS

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of presence and power, be with us on this third step of our Lenten journey to the Cross. You call us from our busy lives to find knowledge and rest in this holy place. Center our spirits in your love. Open our hearts to your transforming word, for we are ready to realign our spirits, remember your words, and walk in your paths. Guide us in wisdom and truth as we seek to follow your word. Amen.

INTROIT

‘Jesus Calls Us’

No. 338 V. 5

***Jesus Calls us! By thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
Give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.***

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

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 Corinthians 1: 18-25

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

People: and also with you.

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. John.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

John 2: 13-22

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70