

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Mark 1: 9-15

*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

'Jesus Is the Answer'

Rev. Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As symbols of love and signs of hope, let us bring our gifts and offerings to God.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM 'Chorale Prelude: "If thou but suffer God to guide thee"

Helmut Walcha

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Because you are the God who saves us, we give you these gifts. Take our lives and our gifts and use them to save our world. We put our hope in you. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go to be signs of hope for all the world to see:

People: rainbows in the clouds,

Pastor: waters in the desert,

People: love in a world of hate.

Pastor: Go to be signs of hope for all the world to know.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Bless the Lord'

TFWS No. 2013

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Jesus, Name above All Names'

TFWS No. 2071

*POSTLUDE

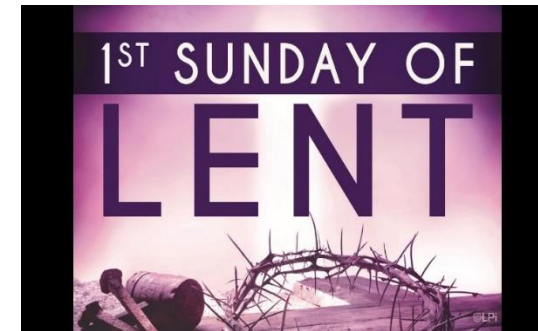
'Chaconne'

Louis Couperin

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

February 18, 2024



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:

Phone: (412) 735-5072

Email: Shulugarussel@gmail.com

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

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 11:15 AM

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

'Variations on "Jesus Priceless Treasure" Johann Gotfried Walther

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: Welcome this day to the beginning of a journey.

People: **Where will this journey take us? We feel lost and in pain.**

Pastor: It will take us to the Cross of Christ and beyond. God calls to us lifting us from our fears and sorrows; bringing us to the cross.

HYMN 'Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross' No. 301 V. 1

*Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.*

Refrain

*In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
Till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

Pastor: Much is required of us for this journey. Come all who have lost hope.

People: **We will open our hearts and spirits. Lord, clear away our blindness that we may see the light of your love.**

HYMN 'Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross' No. 301 V. 2

*Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
There the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.*

Refrain

Pastor: Come, step into the season of Lent and do not despair. God is calling your name.

People: **We want to be ready for this journey. Help us, Lord. Make us ready to trust you. AMEN.**

HYMN 'Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross' TFWS No. 2218, V. 3

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.*

Refrain

OPENING PRAYER

The season of Lent is here again and, as with so many times before, we find that we are not really ready for this journey of discipleship. So many things claim our lives and prevent us from being ready to take the steps in faith. As we look at our barrier of readiness, help us to remember that Christ is with us, every step of the way. We are not alone. Christ will help lift our hearts and spirits and direct our paths. Enable us, loving Savior, to take this journey of faith to new life with you. **AMEN.**

INTROIT 'You Are Mine' TFWS No. 2218 V. 4

*Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.*

(Refrain)

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

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

God of the rainbow as we enter the wilderness of Lent we are reminded that you made a covenant with all creatures, promising life and hope. God of pathways, you show us how we should walk.

Yet we forget our connection with one another and think that we are the center of the universe. We wander from your paths of truth into paths of deceit and pride. Forgive us and lead us back into the arms of your love. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: God is good.

People: **All the time.**

Pastor: And all the time,

People: **God is good.**

Pastor: Trust this truth and receive God's gifts of mercy and love.

People: **Amen.**

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

SHARING THE PEACE

God calls Jesus "my Child," "my Son"—beautiful words that get at their cherished relationship of oneness. God is saying to Jesus, "We belong to one another!" Jesus would later call all who follow him his brothers and sisters. That means we belong to one another in Christ Jesus. As cherished members of the family of God, let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

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 Genesis 9: 8-17

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

LESSON RESPONSE: 'O Love That Will Not Let Me Go' No. 480, Vs, 1 & 4

SECOND LESSON 1 Peter 3: 18-22

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION 'Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus' No. 349

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."

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.**