

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church



March 10, 2024

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. Large Print Bulletins: We have bulletins in LARGE print available. Please ask an usher for one. 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

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE	'O Man Bemoan Thy Grievous Son'	J. S. Bach
GREETINGS, 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: We continue our journey in Lent, anticipating that final trip to Jerusalem.

People: **We come to this hour of worship, remembering that horrible journey to the cross.**

HYMN 'Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days' No. 269, V. 1

***Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray;
teach us with thee to mourn our sins and close by thee to stay.***

Pastor: On our journey we remember Jesus' words, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

People: **We come confused by His words but trusting his promises.**

HYMN 'Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days' No. 269, V. 2

***As thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,
o give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to conquer sin.***

Pastor: Lent calls us to corporate penitence, accountability, and preparation.

People: **We come preparing our hearts for worship as we repent and embrace God's grace.**

HYMN 'Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days' No. 269, V. 4

***And through these days of penitence, and through thy passion tide,
yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.***

Pastor: Let us pause on our journeys; let us build a roadside altar, not of stones, but to our God who abides with us.

People: **We offer our abiding God reference and awe in this hour of worship, that God might find our praise and the offering of ourselves acceptable.**

HYMN 'Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days' No. 269, V. 5

***Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.***

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we rejoice that you are with us today. Open our hearts to all that is sacred. Teach us to follow your ways. As with a whip, drive us from unholy living, and turn us toward your holy light as we continue our journey to the cross. Lead us on a journey toward wholeness, that we may become your holy people, faithfully doing your will. AMEN.

INTROIT 'Lift High the Cross' No. 159, Vs. 1 & 4

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

Gracious God, we are tired of our own grumbling. Though we run around like errant children, we long to return to your warm embrace. Though we act as if the odds are stacked against us, we yearn to rest in the knowledge that your steadfast love endures forever. Though we crouch in the shadows, we long to feel the warmth of your love shining upon us each day. Lead us from death into life, that we might live as children of light, and serve one another as heirs of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God sent not his Son into the world to condemn it, but that through him we might have eternal life. The one who comes from above saves us from our destructive ways, and leads us into life.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

‘O Lord, Your Tenderness’

TFWS No 2143 (2X)

SHARING THE PEACE

Thanking God for the bounty of love we find in Christ Jesus, let us share our joy as we exchange signs of Christ’s peace this morning.

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

Numbers 21: 4-9

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. John.

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

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

John 3: 14-21

*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

‘What Bites You?’

Rev. Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As we have been saved by grace for the goodness of all, may we share our gifts of grace for the goodness of God's world.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM 'Prelude in G Minor' J. S. Bach

*DOXOLOGY No. 95

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Merciful God, you have richly blessed our lives with love and bounty beyond measure. Bless these gifts we return to you now, that they may bestow the same richness of your love and grace in the world. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: God sends us forth with the immeasurable gift of faith.

People: We will live in the joy of our salvation.

Pastor: God sends us forth to walk in the light of holy love.

People: We will walk in the light of Christ.

Pastor: God sends us forth in spirit and in truth.

People: We will journey in the Spirit's tender mercies.

People: Go with the blessings of God



*BENEDICTION RESPONS 'Bless the Lord' TFWS No. 2013

*RECESSIONAL HYMN 'Jesus, Name above All Names' TFWS No. 2071

*POSTLUDE 'Fugue in G Minor' J. S. Bach

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD