

**March 31, 2024**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**



Pastor Russel contact information:  
Phone: (412) 735-5072      Email: [Shulugarussel@gmail.com](mailto:Shulugarussel@gmail.com)

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 has an open-door policy. Anyone wishing to speak to the pastor, is welcomed and encouraged to call. He is available 24/7.

ORDER OF WORSHIP – 11:15 AM

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**CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING**

CENTERING WORDS

Pastor: Very early, still in darkness, we set out. Sorrowful, uncertain, knowing only our loss, we return to the tomb in our anguish and our love. Love looks back at us and calls us by name. You are seeking Jesus, who died on the cross. He has been raised. He is not here in your loss. The tomb could not hold him. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

**People: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

PRELUDE

‘Prelude and Fugue in C Major’

J. S. Bach

**CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope. Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen, indeed.**

Pastor: We run to the tomb to see for ourselves. And it is true. Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen, indeed.**

Pastor: We hear a voice call our name, and we know our risen Lord is with us now and always.

**People: Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed. Thanks be to God.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

‘Christ the Lord is Risen Today’

No. 302 VS. 1-4

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where’s thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

## EASTER PRAYER

**God of hope, in the midst of death, you call forth life. When all hope seemed gone, you raised Jesus from the grave. We come before you today, longing for your life-giving presence. God of new life, raise us up with all your people. Lift us from the tombs of our despair and doubt, that we may rejoice in your power over death. God of joy, fill our hearts with alleluias as we sing your praises. Glory to God. Amen!**

## INTROIT

'Up from the Grave He Arose'

No. 322

**Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior,  
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!**

**Up from the grave he a-rose, (he arose) with a mighty triumph o'er his foes; (o'er his foes)  
he a-rose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives for-ever, with his saints to reign.  
He a-rose! (he a-rose) He a-rose! (he arose) Hal-le-lu-jah! Christ a-rose!**

**Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Savior;  
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!**

(Chorus)

**Death cannot keep its Prey, Jesus my Savior;  
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!**

(Chorus)

## CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

It was early in the morning when God created all the good and beauty in the universe. It was early in the morning that a baby cried in a manger. It was early in the morning on that first day, when a voice told us that death has been defeated and Jesus is alive in our midst. Let us confess the fear, and the great joy, we bring with us, early in the mornings.

### GENERAL CONFESSION

**God of life and love, like Peter, we gaze into the empty tomb and see only death. Like Mary, we stand weeping over loss. We so often feel hopeless. We don't recognize any possibility for joy. Surprise us with your work in the world. May we dry our tears, as we dance into new life. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Surprise! The stone is rolled away! Christ is risen! Be gone, darkness and death! You have no power here! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

**He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

## EASTER PEACE

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God brought peace to all creation. Share this joyous peace with one another.

## HAND BELL CHOIR

**CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD

Hear now the good news of Easter. It spreads throughout the world. It began with Jesus' life, passion and resurrection; it continued with those who witnessed the risen Christ; and now, it comes to us today, as we listen to God's word.

## CHORAL RESPONSE

'Crown Him with Many Crowns'

No. 327, v. 4

***Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
Those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.***

## FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

**15** Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news<sup>b</sup> that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, **2** through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

**3** For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, **4** and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, **5** and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. **6** Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters<sup>c</sup> at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. **7** Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. **8** Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. **9** For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. **10** But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. **11** Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN:

'He Lives'

No. 310 V. 3

**Rejoice, rejoice, oh Christian,  
Lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal hallelujahs to  
Jesus Christ the King!  
The hope of all who seek Him,  
The help of all who find,  
None other is so loving,  
So good and kind!**

**Chorus**  
**He lives, He lives,**  
**Christ Jesus lives today!**  
**He walks with me and talks with me**  
**Along life's narrow way.**  
**He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!**  
**You ask me how I know He lives:**  
**He lives within my heart!**

\*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 16: 1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup>And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

HYMN:

'In The Garden'

No. 314 V. 1

**I come to the garden alone,**  
**While the dew is still on the roses,**  
**And the voice I hear falling on my ear**  
**The Son of God discloses.**

(Chorus)

**And He walks with me, and He talks with me,**  
**And He tells me I am His own;**  
**And the joy we share as we tarry there,**  
**None other has ever known.**

<sup>3</sup> They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup> When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him." <sup>7</sup>

HYMN:

'In The Garden'

No. 314 V. 2

**He speaks, and the sound of His voice**  
**Is so sweet the birds hush their singing,**  
**And the melody that He gave to me**  
**Within my heart is ringing.**

(Chorus)

**And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own;  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.**

But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

HYMN:

‘In The Garden’

No. 314 V. 3

**I’d stay in the garden with Him,  
Though the night around me be falling,  
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe  
His voice to me is calling.**

(Chorus)

**And He walks with me, and He talks with me,  
And He tells me I am His own;  
And the joy we share as we tarry there,  
None other has ever known.**

<sup>8</sup> So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.<sup>[a]</sup>

\*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: Receive the good news handed down by the saints from generation to generation.

People: **As the saints have proclaimed the gospel, so shall we believe and live it.**

\*GOSPEL RESPONSE

‘Thine Be the Glory’

No. 308 V. 1

***Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes where the body lay.  
Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.***

## **CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION**

SERMON

‘The Day Death Died’

Rev. Russel Shuluga

HYMN

‘Hymn of Promise’

No. 707 V. 3

**In our end is our beginning; in our time infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death a resurrection; at the last a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The gift of God is here with us, for the presence of the risen Christ is with us always. In gratitude, may we offer our gifts, as we give thanks to the Lord, who is good. Truly, God's steadfast love endures forever.

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

#### THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

'Fanfare'

Jean Joseph Mouret

#### \*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

#### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Living God, you give us the greatest gift of all, the gift of new life. Grateful for this gift, we bring our offerings, the work of our hands. Use our gifts to share your word of hope, your promise of forgiveness, and your blessings with all creation. Grateful for your love, we offer ourselves that we might walk with our neighbors into your garden of love. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

#### \*BENEDICTION

May the risen Christ go with us— before us to show us the way; behind us to encourage us; beside us to befriend us; above us to watch over us; and live within us and through us, that all might know the peace of God.



#### \*OUR EASTER RESPONSE

'Thine Be the Glory'

No. 308 VS. 2 & 3

**Lo! Jesus meets thee, risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly he greets thee, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life!  
Life is naught with-out thee; aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.  
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

#### POSTLUDE

'Fanfare'

Nicholas Lemmens

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



***FLOWERS: IN MEMORY OF: GIVEN BY:***

Hyacinths (1)	Our Parents	Barbara & Robert Thaw
Tulips (2)	Loved Ones	Gail Gratton
Lilies (1)	Loved Ones	Dai & Candy Morgan
Daffodils (1)	Larry Harvey	Paulette Harvey
Mums (1)		
Hyacinths (2)	Lucy & Erik Nystrom	Brenda Lordon
Lilies (2)	Elise Nystrom, Joan Morrison	
Mums (2)	Patricia & Lewis Spencer	



***FLOWERS IN HONOR OF: GIVEN BY:***

Tulips (1)	Pastor Russel & Nancy	Mifflin Avenue UMC
Hyacinths (1)	Our Family	Barbara & Robert Thaw
Hyacinths (1)	Family & Friends	Gail Gratton
Lilies (1)		
Daffodils (1)	Our Grandchildren:	Dai & Candy Morgan
Tulips (1)	Cole, Jane & Ryan	
Hyacinths (1)		
Hyacinths (1)	Our Parents	The Mitchells
Lilies (1)		