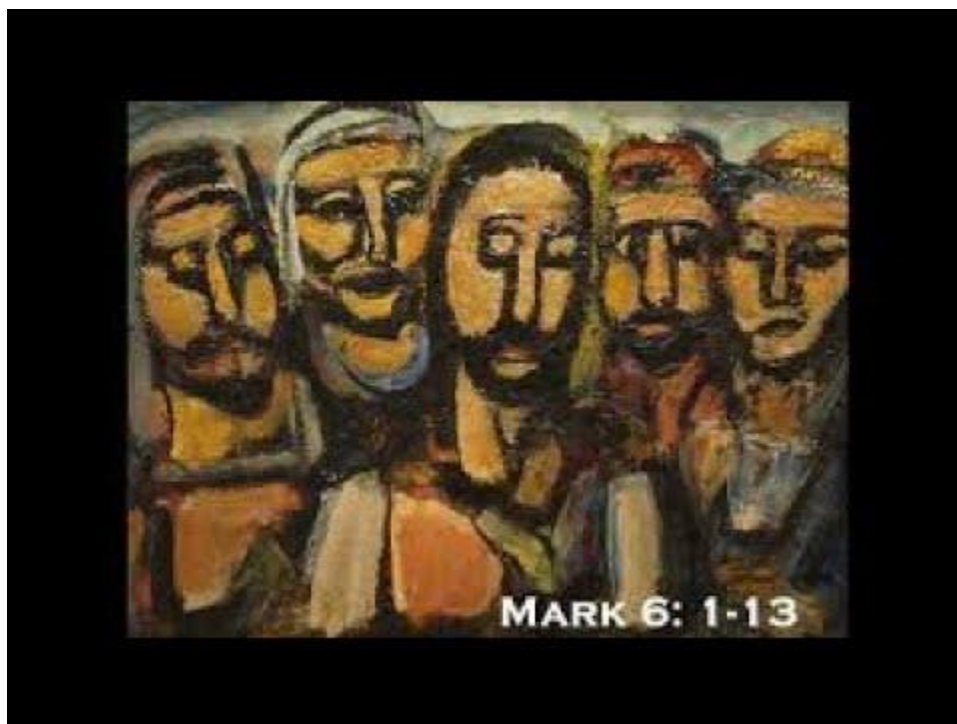


**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**  
**July 7, 2024**

**7th Sunday after Pentecost**



**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**

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**CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING**

PRELUDE

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING WORDS

Take nothing for the journey of faith. Only then will we truly give God the glory for our success.

## CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

### OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Marching to Zion'

No. 733

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Let God's praise be heard in the midst of the congregation.

**People: Shout praise to the Lord of hosts!**

Pastor: Let God's praise be whispered in the spirits of the people!

**People: We give you thanks for the many ways you have loved and guided us.**

Pastor: Let God's praise be proclaimed wherever we are.

**People: May we praise God in all that we do and say AMEN.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**Lord of mystery and community, you have called us here this day to remind us of the mission journey you set before us. Help us to pay attention to the words of Jesus as he sent out his disciples on a mission of healing and compassion. Remind us that success is not measured in the cures, but in the striving. Enable us to truly be your disciples in this world. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

### INTROIT

'Just a Closer Walk with Thee'

TFWS No. 2158

### 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

2 Corinthians 12: 2-10

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

Mark 6: 1-13

### \*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

"Unbelievable"

Pastor Russel Shuluga

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

May we prepare our hearts to receive God's mercy and healing.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful One, we are tired in body and soul. You teach us that your grace is sufficient, but we yearn for something more tangible. You assure us that your strength is made perfect in weakness, but our weakness feels like it is killing us. Give us humble hearts this day that we may see beyond the surface and behold the grace you hold for us when we rest completely in your care. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's grace is sufficient for us as we take nothing for the journey and place our trust in God. God's power is made perfect in weakness as we see beyond our limitations and seek to do God's will.

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'How Great Thou Art'

No. 77 V. 3

### SHARING THE PEACE

On the road of faith, we rarely feel up to the journey. Look around at your fellow travelers, then share signs of Christ's peace, for this peace is grace and strength for the journey.

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### \*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**You give us everything we need, O God, to build your kingdom. With nothing but your presence and your promise to be with us, your presence in our lives blesses the world. Receive our love and commitment in this morning's gifts and offerings, that the world may know the healing love of your Son. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

### THE INVITATION

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

## THE SURSUM CORDA

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to you, Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to praise you, Lord.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Mighty God, our Comforter and Sustainer. You made us in your image, to love and be loved. When our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity in Egypt, made covenant, time and again, to be your God, that we might be your people. In the lineage of Abraham and Sarah, David and Bathsheba, Paul and Peter, we come now with gratitude and praise for your mighty acts of salvation and your generous covenant of love. 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 the one 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 offer healing and mercy to the sick, to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins, and to share your love with the world. Through Christ and the Holy Spirit, you gave birth to the church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Christ commissioned us to be disciples of healing and hope to a world in need. As we sit at this table, you nurture us to live this commission with your bread of life and living water.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

On the night when Jesus last ate with his disciples, he took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body."

Then Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said: "This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many.

Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

And so, in remembrance of these,

your mighty acts in Christ Jesus, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living gift to you and to your world. In union with Christ's gift of love to us and to your world, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all of us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the life and love of Christ, that we may be disciples of Christ for the world, redeemed by your love and grace. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world. May we proclaim your love and your hope until Christ comes in final victory, when we will drink of the fruit of the vine and feast at your heavenly banquet. Through Jesus the Christ, together with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go with the blessing of God, our guide and guardian.

**People: We walk without fear to share the realm of God.**

Pastor: Go with the assurance of Christ, who shows us the way.

**People: We have all we need for our journey of faith.**

Pastor: Go with the power of the Spirit, who anoints our way.

**People: We travel in the footsteps of the saints of God.**



### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'  
*A-men, a-men, a – men.*

No 898

### \*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Sent Forth by God's Blessing

No. 664

### \*POSTLUDE

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

## ***PRAYER REQUESTS***

Brittney – upcoming surgery  
Judy Spencer Baker - prayers  
Jim Herbert - recovery from fall  
Ellen (Jim Herbert's friend) - diagnosed with Lyme Disease  
Prayers for Pastor Russel  
Prayers for the Shuluga Family  
Judy Arthurs - prayers  
Chris Clapper (nephew of Ginnie & Sue) - complications from surgery  
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  
Those affected by COVID, RSV and the FLU  
Those affected by gun violence  
Gary White (Ginnie's son) - recovery from rotator cuff surgery  
Aubrie (Ginnie's granddaughter) – diagnosed with breast cancer  
Joe (Ginnie & Sue's cousin) - diagnosed with myeloma cancer  
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi  
Rev. Paul Ritchey - Pittsburgh/Greensburg DS  
People of Ukraine  
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church  
United Methodist Church