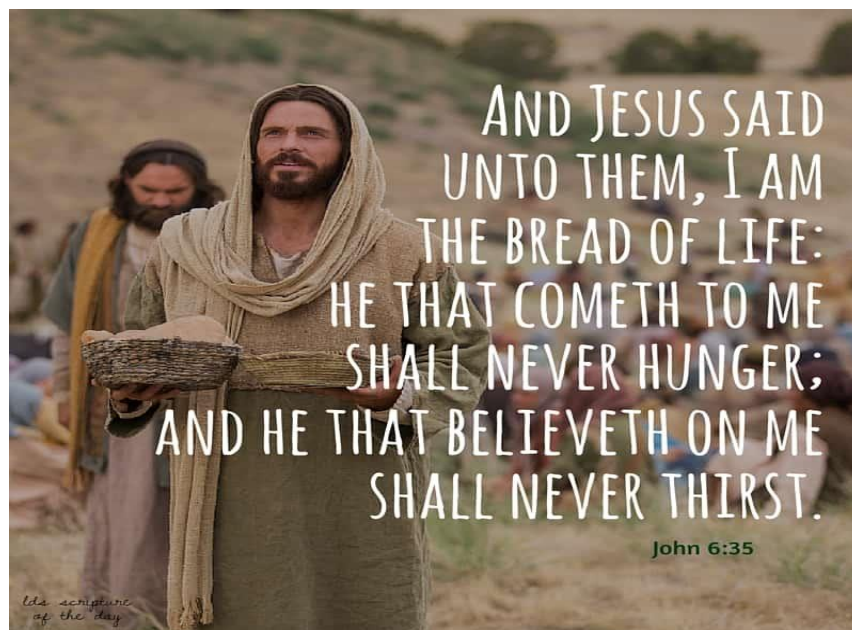


Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

August 4, 2024

11th Sunday after Pentecost



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. 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

GATHERING WORDS

Are you spiritually well-fed? Eat well of the bread of life. Drink your fill of the living water, and share this feast with every hungry guest.

GATHERING HYMN

'Fill My Cup Lord'

No. 641

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'The Church's One Foundation'

No. 546

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: All who are gathered here this day are welcome in the sight of the Lord.
People: **We come from times of stress and worry, needing God's healing love.**
Pastor: Come to this place of healing and feeding.
People: **Christ bids us welcome!**

HYMN

"Time Now to Gather"

TFWS NO. 2265 V. 1

*Time now to gather, time now to feel
Christ's holy presence gracing this meal.
Grain from the harvest, fruit of the vine;
Simple the supper, sacred the sign.*

Pastor: From the worries of our lives
People: **Christ bids us welcome!**
Pastor: From the things that draw us down and away,
People: **Christ bids us welcome!**

HYMN

"Time Now to Gather"

TFWS No. 2265 V. 3

*All who are hungry, come and be fed.
Serve one another this cup and bread.
All who are troubled, hurting, or sad,
Come, and find healing. Come, and be glad.*

Pastor: Let our celebration begin!
People: **Let us partake of the banquet of God in Jesus Christ. AMEN.**

OPENING PRAYER

Along life's pathways, we search continually for signs to point us in positive directions. Christ has given us a sign which points us to healing and hope: that is the sign of the Bread of Life. No more shall we hunger and thirst after the things which cannot sustain us. Now we have been fed and nourished by Christ! Open our hearts in gratitude, Lord, for all the wondrous things you have done for us. Open our spirits to hear your words of hope for us today. AMEN.

INTROIT

'You Satisfy the Hungry Heart'

No. 629 (Chorus)

*You satisfy the hungry heart with gifts of finest wheat.
Come, give to us, O saving Lord, the bread of life to eat.*

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 Samuel 11:26-12.13a

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. John.

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

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

John 6: 24-35

*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 DO YOU NEED?"

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

God of abundance, you long to feed your children, whenever we are hungry. Yet we often turn away and seek happiness elsewhere. When we compete with others for status, help us support one another in love. When we measure our worth by our productivity, help us rest in the assurance that we are your children. When we avoid conflict, move us to speak your truth in love. Return us to your ways, Holy One, that our souls may be satisfied and our hearts may be at peace. Amen

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Do you not know? It is Jesus Christ who is the Bread of Life! Come to him and feed on his love for you. Find Healing in his presence. Know that this is given freely; out of his great love.

HYMN Of ASSURANCE

'Grace Alone'

TFWS No. 2162 (Chorus)

***Grace alone which God supplies,
Strength unknown he will provide.
Christ in us our Cornerstone;
We will go forth in grace alone.***

SHARING THE PEACE

Lead lives worthy of the calling to which you have been called. Share together signs of humility and gentleness—signs of love and grace. Be for one another the very presence of God in this room. Be the very peace of Christ as we greet our neighbors. The peace of the Christ be with you.

And also with you.

May we stand and offer one another signs of peace and reconciliation.

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Each of us is called to build up the body of Christ. Our job is unfinished until each of us has come to maturity in the full stature of Christ Jesus. Bring now your gifts, given to us by the grace of God.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God, you have fed us well in body and in spirit. Your grace never runs short, but meets us in our need. Make us one with all your children, that these gifts and our good works may bring comfort to those who grieve, friendship to those who are lonely, and provision to those who are in need. This we pray, in your blessed name. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION

Christ's table is open to all who will join the feast. Come, eat; be loved and forgiven.

HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

No. 618 V. 1

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

You are true to who You are and reveal to us the glories of your presence.

You are a God of love, who speaks against oppression and injustice.

You are a God of grace, who asks us to forgive those who are blind to their privilege, even as You invite the world to learn from You.

You are the Creator God, who weaves the beauty of diversity into something fresh and new, the garment of understanding and wonder.

You call us to follow You out of the familiar and comfortable, and to live by faith: calling upon Your holy name, and trusting in the power of Your grace.

You invite us to be like Jonah and preach Your word in Nineveh, bringing salvation to our historical oppressors. You move our hearts to say with Ruth; "Wherever you live, That is where I will now live. You will be family. Your God will be mine. I will even die for you, buried next to you."

Because You show Your mercy to every nation and people upon the earth; because You speak every language and delight in every culture; we join in your praise with all the earth. Because You have embraced people from every continent, have walked with all of our ancestors, continuing to hear Your praise even in forgotten languages that are sung continually around Your throne; we join in their endless praise, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might Heaven and earth are full... full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who comes In the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

No. 618 V. 2

THE SURSUM CORDA

You are holy and Jesus is Immanuel, God with us.
Leaving all that was familiar in heaven, Jesus was born into the people and culture of Israel.
Jesus was taught the language and the traditions of his family.
Jesus worshiped in the Temple in Jerusalem.
Jesus came first to the lost sheep of Israel, people of his race, people of his culture.
Jesus also shared Your grace with Roman oppressors, who lynched his people.
Jesus entered into deep theological discussions with a Samaritan woman, breaking cultural taboos and stereotypes.
Jesus responded to the needs of a Syro-Phoenician woman, going against the deeply ingrained prejudices that his society had taught him.
Jesus realized that You, O God, love the world so much that You wanted everyone to believe, even if it meant personal sacrifice.

When culture dictated that the least important was to wash feet, Jesus broke with social convention, left the seat of honor, took off his robe, and with a towel and basin in his hands, knelt and washed the feet of the one who would betray him; washed the feet of the one who would deny him not once but three times; and the feet of those who would desert him to save their own lives. Jesus invites us to do the same.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

As an expression of culture, Jesus took the bread and remembered the historical struggles of his people, and shared it with everyone, saying: "Take, eat, this is my body given for you."

As an expression of culture, Jesus took the cup and remembered the historical struggles of his people, and shared it with everyone, saying: "Drink with me all of you, for this is my blood poured out as a witness to the Divine Covenant of forgiveness with you and the whole world."

Out of specific culture Jesus works cross-culturally to bring salvation to the whole world.
Jesus came not just to save his own people but all peoples.
Jesus came not just to save his own economic class but those of any class.
Jesus came not just to save those of his own gender identity, but those of every gender identity.
We have testified that this mystery of salvation found in Jesus Christ is for all, when we say:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Cross-cultural Dancer, Wind of Change use these simple gifts of bread and wine to become for us the body and blood of Christ, source of Your transforming power.

Cross-cultural Dancer, Wind of Change use the simple gift of our lives, our culture, our faithfulness, and our dreams to become for the world, the church: the authentic body and devoted bride of Christ, source of Your transforming power.

Cross-cultural Dancer, Wind of Change be with all those called to cross the social boundaries of race and culture to boldly go where only Your grace could send them.

Give them the courage to accept Your challenge to pick up their cross and follow You.

Use their faithfulness to set the captives free, to restore sight to the blind, to liberate the oppressed, and to share the good news of the availability of your grace to all.

Be blessed by the presence of Christ.

Be blessed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Be blessed by the creativity of The Divine Inspiration,
who will continually receive all our glory, thanks and praise. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Loving and holy God, when the taste of cup and bread fade from our lips, remind our hearts to continue facing the rising sun. For it is in you that we find mercy. It is in you we have our hope. For this meal we have shared and the truth it represents, we give you thanks. Amen.

HYMN

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

No. 618 V. 3

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Go forth to lead lives worthy of Christ's call.

People: Joined together as one, we are strengthened

Pastor: to share our gifts with the world. Make every effort to maintain this unity.

People: Knit together by Christ, we are ready to serve!

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

No 898

A-men, a-men, a – men.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Bind Us Together'

TFWS No.2228

*POSTLUDE

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORL