



**March 20, 2022**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**

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. 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. In case of an emergency, he is available 24/7. Please feel free to contact him.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:15AM

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### CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

'Berceuse'

E. Higgins

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMES AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

GATHERING WORDS

This morning on this Third Sunday in Lent we acknowledge there is so much during the day that clamors for our attention: friends, family, work, classes and household tasks. And the noise! We are bombarded with sound; from the clock that awakens us to the telephone, the radio, the television, the conversation that we have or over-hear. Where is the time and place to listen for the still small voice of God? Sometimes it seems that God would have to speak in a whirlwind to be heard above the clamor! Listen now! In Lent we journey to the parts of ourselves known only to God, beneath the clamor. Let the story of Jesus reach us there.

SILENT REFLECTION

As we extinguish the third candle, may God draw us together in God's love. May our restless hearts not resist God but continue to search until we find rest in our Creator.

HYMN

'Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross'

No. 301 (Refrain only)

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

THE THIRD CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

### CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The journey began two weeks ago. We were called by God to look inward first, to find those things which have blocked our witness and discipleship.

**People: How hard it is to serve God when we are bound by our fears.**

Pastor: Our voices quiver and shake.

**People: We seek God's forgiving love but fail to recognize God's presence in our lives.**

Pastor: Help us to remember the Lord has walked this path before us.

**People: We open our hearts to God's awesome love given to us.**

HYMN

'Lift High the Cross'

No. 159

OPENING PRAYER

**Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and spirits this morning, Lord, that we may be healed of our faithlessness, freed from our fears and anxieties, and placed on the pathways that lead to peace and service to you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

INTROIT

'El Shaddai'

No. 123

*El Shad-dai, El Shad-dai, El El-yon na A-do-nai;  
age to age you're still the same by the power of the name.  
El Shad-dai, el Shad-dai, Er-kahm-ka na A-do-nai;  
We will praise and lift you high, El Shad-dai.e*

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

**CELEBRATION THROUGH PRAYER**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN OF PRAYER 'Rock of Ages' No. 361 V. 1

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE 'Rock of Ages' No. 361 V. 3

**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 Isaiah 55: 1-9

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. Luke.

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

\*THE GOSPEL IS READ Luke 13: 1-9

\*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 'Why?' Rev. Russel Shuluga

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

'A Lenten Meditation'

K. MacRoberts

\*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of grace, you have fed our spirits and nourished our souls. You have supported us in every possible way. May the gifts we bring this morning be an offering of our gratitude, and may they be a promise to share what we have received from your hand. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Turn to the Lord, for God is good.

**People: We have found new life in Christ!**

Pastor: Repent of your sins and find God's forgiveness.

**People: We have found new life in Christ!**

Pastor: Go forth as new creatures, able to serve and quick to love.

**People: We have found new life in Christ!**

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Jesus, Remember Me'

No. 488

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.***



\*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Just a Closer Walk with Thee'

TFWS No. 2158

\*POSTLUDE

'Postlude in G'

S. Otis

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