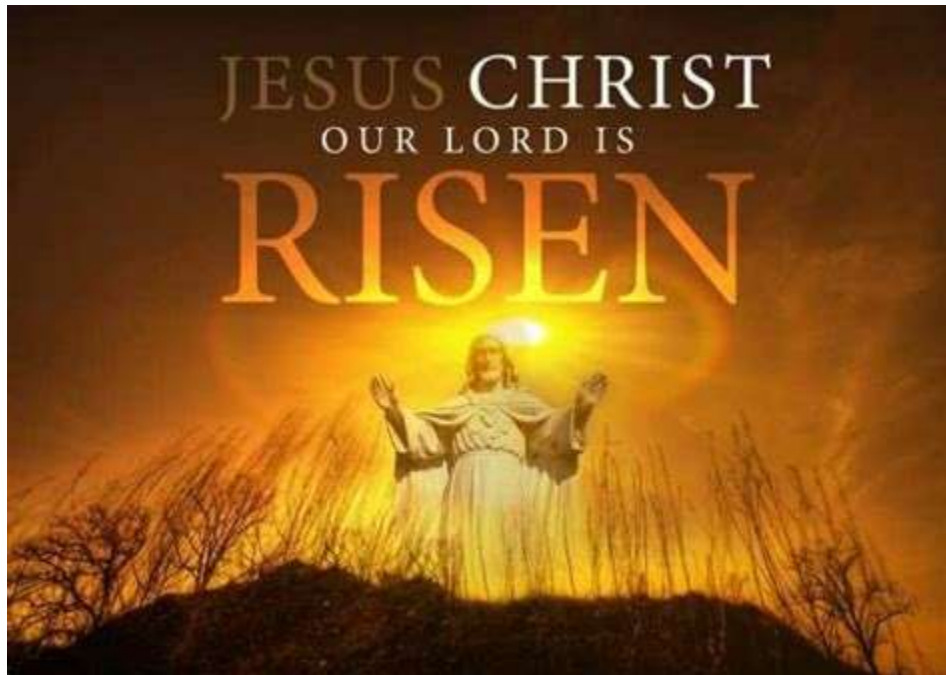


April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church



Pastor Russel contact information:
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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 – 11:15AM

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

CENTERING WORDS

Pastor: The night is over! The morning is here.

People: We walk with the women to the tomb.

Pastor: The stone I rolled back. He is not here, only his grave clothes remain.

People: We weep with the women, for all hope seems lost.

PRELUDE

‘Pastorale in F Major’

J. S. Bach

CENTERING WORDS CONTINUE....

Pastor: Angels question our tears, for God is stronger than death.

People: Jesus calls us by name, and we behold his glory.

Pastor: Shout it from the mountaintop, Christ is risen! Alleluia!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

TRUMPET FANFARE

Eli Nitzberg

LIGHTING THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”

People: Jesus said, “I am the resurrection of the world.”

Pastor: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

People: Christ is our light!

Pastor: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

‘Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!’

Bell Choir

BLESSING OF THE NEW FLAME

Pastor: Let us pray: O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your glory.

People: Bless this new fire and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration that we may be brought one day to the feast of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN & 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!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This is the day...

People: when healing touches the suffering, when loneliness discovers a family, when peace caresses the stressed.

Pastor: This is the day the Lord...

People: breaks free of death's clutches, rolls away the stone, folds the grave clothes into a neat pile.

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made,

People: the day of sin's defeat, the day of resurrection, the first day of the new creation.

Pastor: This is the day!

All: Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

EASTER PRAYER

Surprising God, early in the morning before chaos was awake, you tiptoed quietly past, and whispered the word that caused grace and love to blossom into creation.

Early in the morning while the disciples slept, Jesus, Son of the Living God, you prepared a feast to fill their emptiness; you rolled away their hardened hearts to open them to your grace; you whispered their names to awaken them to new life.

Early in the morning while we are still drowsy, you sing your songs to us, Holy Spirit -hymns of hope, cantatas of compassion, psalms of peace, litanies of love.

God in Community, Holy in One, early this morning we bring our prayer to you as Jesus has taught us, saying,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INTROIT

'My Lord What a Morning'

Bell Choir

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

ANTHEM

'Up From the Grave He Arose'

Choir Ensemble

EASTER PEACE

Beloved in Christ, God's love pours out from the grave of despair. The Risen One comes with hands full of love. He greets us with peace the world does not know, he give us peace the world cannot give.

Alleluia! Christ's peace is ours forever!

May we greet each other with Easter peace!

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Pastor: Living Christ, prepare us once more to hear your resurrection message.

People: Open our hearts to the joyous gift of life shared with us this day. And open our minds to your presence, each and every day.

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

Colossians 3: 1-4

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.

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

People: and also with you.

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Matthew 28:1-10

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*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

'Fear Not'

Rev. Russel Shuluga

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

'This joyful Eastertide'

Traditional

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the gift of this amazing day of resurrection! Our hearts are overflowing with the joy and excitement of Easter. We pray that you will take our exuberance and use it to bring light and hope to those trapped in darkness and despair. Use these gifts of money to empower our work with those who have not yet seen the risen Lord in their midst. Use the gift of our very lives to empower our calling to carry your Incarnate Love into the world. We pray this with the boldness of those who have encountered the living Christ. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH RESPONDING

EASTER LITANY

Pastor: It is true. Christ Jesus lives! He is risen from the dead!

People: The greatest foe has been overcome. Christ is risen!

Pastor: The journey through the darkness is over.

People: This brilliant light of this morning floods our hearts and spirits.

Pastor: Jesus lives!

People: Jesus lives forever.

HYMN

'He Lives'

No. 310 (Chorus)

*He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me a-long life's nar-row way.
He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) salvation to im-part!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.*

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

The tomb is empty, Christ has risen. As you journey in faith, may your life be full, your love be abundant, and your hope be eternal.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Victory in Jesus'

No. 370 (Chorus)

**O victory in Jesus, my Savior forever!
He sought me and brought me
with his redeeming blood;
he loved me ere I knew him,
and all my love is due him;
he plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood.**

*OUR EASTER RESPONSE

'Thine Be the Glory'

No. 308 V 1 & V 2

**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 thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

**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.**

POSTLUDE

'Fanfare'

Nicolas Lemmens

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF THE RISEN CHRIST INTO THE WORLD



Virginia Atkinson
Lucille McBride (Lana's sister) – in hospice
Those affected by tragedy in Nashville
Ellie Holderbaum (Ginnie's family friend 19th year old daughter) -kidney stone operation and recovery
John McQuade – medical issues
Annie (Viehland's friend) - surgery
Diane (Carolyn's friend) - recovery from surgery
Families who are traveling
Seth (Robert Morris's son) - accident
Donna (Carolyn's friend) - brain tumors
Wally (Carolyn's friend) - lung cancer
People of Turkey & Syria
People of East Palestine, Ohio
President Carter—in hospice
Jim White (Ginnie's son) - recovery from rotator cuff surgery
Steven Akers—health concerns
Pastor Janet Hellner-Burris—health concerns
Janice Melonic (Carolyn's friend) - diagnosed with cancer
Holly Davis
Dorothy Hawkins
Fawn Sherwin – health concerns
Jim (Mary K's friend) - cancer treatments
Kristin (Sue's friend) - diagnosed with thyroid cancer
Liz Swartz (Carolyn's friend) - prayers needed
Debbie Valera – recouping from surgery
Barbara Thaw –continued prayers
Judy Spencer Baker - continued prayers
Aubrie (Ginnie's granddaughter) – diagnosed with breast cancer
Irene Chenot (Barbara's friend's mom) - cancer
Joe (Ginnie & Sue's cousin) - diagnosed with myeloma cancer
Gary (Ginnie's son) - continued good health
Pastor Russel W. Shuluga
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi
Rev. Deborah Ackley-Killian — Pittsburgh District Superintendent
Prayers that the violence will stop
Those affected by COVID
Peacemakers
People of Ukraine
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
United Methodist Church



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
905 Mifflin Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

**A WELCOMING, WORSHIPPING, WITNESSING, CARING, LEARNING COMMUNITY OF
FAITH**

WELCOME!

where faith & life meet



Mifflin Avenue
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Everyone is welcome, no matter who you are, where you come from, or why you are here.

We are Christ's people and this is Christ's place with its doors **wide open**. If you are passing through, Godspeed. If you are looking for a worship home, please stay with us. We invite visitors to join with us, and most of all, to return often.