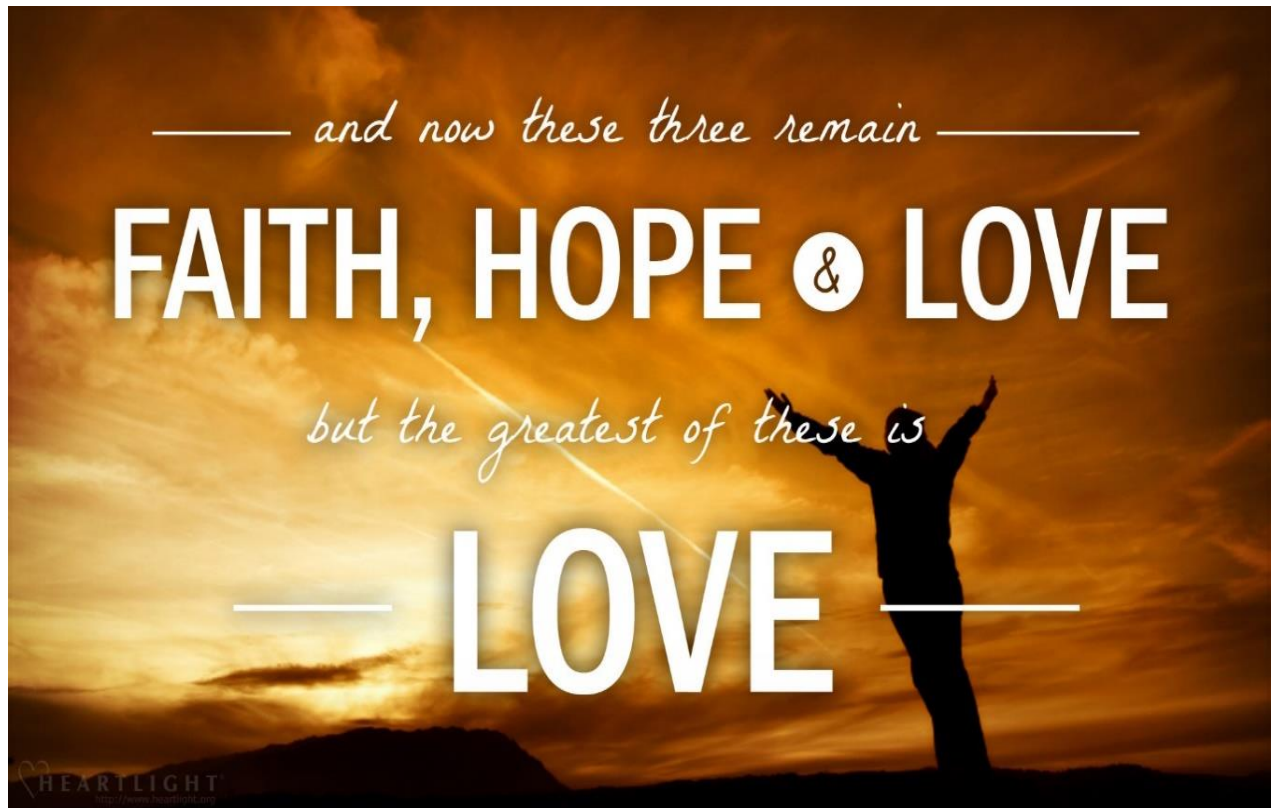


# Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

February 2, 2025

4th Sunday after the Epiphany



Pastor Russel Contact Information:

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

11:15 AM

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

CENTERING WORDS

Love guides the way through every season, in every situation, and in every life.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'

No. 110

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The God who gives love so freely comes among us.

**People: We rejoice that God's love shines upon us.**

Pastor: As God's love caresses us it also calls us.

**People: We receive God's love and God's call.**

Pastor: God calls us to love others as God loves us.

**People: With thankfulness we will share God's love with all.**

OPENING PRAYER

**O God who is love and has created all through your love: Grant us the grace to reflect your love back to you and to all your children and all of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

INTROIT

'O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go'

No. 480 VS. 1 & 2

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."*

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. Luke

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

\*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Luke 4: 21-30

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

### CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

"Loves Never Fails"

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

**We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. In love you created and in love you seek to redeem us. We have allowed our selfishness to block the image of your love from shining in our lives. Where we should be signs of your gracious presence we have been signs of division and hatred. Forgive us and renew your image within us that we might share your love with others. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Faith, hope, and love remain. But it is through the greatest of these, love that we forgive and are forgiven. Thanks be to God

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'Wonderful Words of Life'

No. 600 V. 2

SHARING THE PEACE

Let us speak with words of love and with gestures of peace, as we share the peace of Christ with one another. May the peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you!**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As a sign of our love for God, God's church, and God's creation, let us share our gifts and offerings.

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### \*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Bless these gifts, O God, with your love, your strength, and your presence. May the ministries this offering supports be a sign of your love, strength, and presence in the world. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come freely, for this table of grace is here for all.

Come confidently, for this table of love offers blessings beyond our wildest dreams.

Come humbly, for this table is set by Christ, who humbled himself to both live and die in his great love for us.

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to God!**

Celebrate God's love!

**It is right to give God our thanks and praise!**

We give thanks and praise to you, God of love and grace!

We celebrate the creative presence that called forth this glorious earth and the heavens above.

We praise and glorify you for creating us in your very image.

We celebrate the long history you traveled with us, as you called us to be your light and love for the world, and as you claimed us as your own.

We are humbled and grateful for the many times you guided us along the way—reclaiming us in our grumbling, redirecting us in our wandering, comforting us in our loneliness, and steadfastly loving us with your grace.

From ancient days and ancient voices, you have shown us the path of love, justice and righteousness.

And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn, saying:

**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.**

### THE SURSUM CORDA

In the fullness of time, you came to us in the presence of Jesus, the Christ, showing us the way of strength and trust, calling us to discipleship, and inviting us to walk the path of love.

Even when faced with impending death, Christ gave thanks and blessed the fruit of your good earth, offering not only bread and wine, but the bread of life and the wine of salvation.

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We remember his prophetic words: "Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you. Take, drink. This is my life poured out for you and for many."

As we walk this journey of life, we remember these gifts, as 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 us, that we might be disciples of your love and grace.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine that your life and love might flow through us.

Guide us in love by your Spirit, that we might be one with Christ,

one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory

and we feast at the heavenly banquet. Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever more.

**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.**

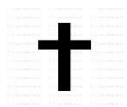
## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

Go with the courage of Christ.

Go with the Spirit of love.

Go to answer God's call, wherever and however God leads.



### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

No. 898

### \*CLOSING HYMN

'Take My Life and Let It Be'

No. 399

### \*POSTLUDE

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

# MIFFLIN AVENUE PRAYER REQUESTS

Judy Spencer Baker—Prayers  
Prayers for the Spencer/Baker Families  
People of California  
John McQuade—stroke  
Hope Gaebel—prayers  
Patti (Barbara's friend) - prayers  
Big Mac (Barbara's friend) - brain cancer  
Prayers for New Orleans  
Those affected by violence  
Passing of President Jimmy Carter  
Ed (son of Ginnie White) - broken shoulder  
Mel (Robert) - (Barbara's brother) - prayers  
People of Israel  
People of Gaza & the West Bank  
Judy Arthurs – prayers  
Those affected by tornadoes/hurricanes  
Phyllis McLaughlin - prayers  
Ginnie White – prayers  
Bud Wicks (South Avenue) - prayers  
Prayers for Pastor Russel  
Prayers for the Shuluga Family  
Chris (nephew of Ginnie & Sue) - hernia surgery  
Middle East conflict  
Morris's children  
Those who need prayers and don't ask for prayers  
People who are traveling  
Those affected by COVID, RSV and the FLU  
Gary White (Ginnie's son) - COPD  
Aubri (Ginnie's granddaughter) – cancer  
Joe (Ginnie & Sue's nephew) - cancer  
Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball  
Rev. Paul Ritchey - Pittsburgh/Greensburg DS  
People of Ukraine  
Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church  
United Methodist Church