

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

January 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord Sunday



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

11:15 AM

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

MISSION MINUTE

DEACONESS, KATIE PETERSON (U.M.C. Mission Barn)

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty'

No. 139

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come to the waters.

People: We gather at the river.

Pastor: Come to the waters.

People: The waters of grace flow over us.

Pastor: Come to the waters.

People: We are washed in God's love.

Pastor: Come to the waters.

People: We are God's beloved children.

OPENING PRAYER

God of strength, God of love, surround us with your love. Gather us in as your beloved children. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to the power of your transforming love. May your waters of grace pour over us, renewing us for your work in the world. Bless us in this holy time. Amen.

INTROIT

'Spirit Song'

No. 347

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

Isaiah 43: 1-7

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 3: 15-17,21-22

*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

'Love Shows Up'

Pastor Russel Shuluga

REAFFIRMATION OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

INTRODUCTION

Sisters and brothers in Christ:
through the sacrament of baptism
God's Spirit has been poured out upon water,
water poured over and immersing us,
water that flows freely for all who will receive it,
water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,
water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,
water that refreshes life, nurtures growth, and offers new birth.

Today we come to the waters,
to renew our commitments
in each other's presence
to Christ who has raised us,
the Spirit who has birthed us,
and the Creator who is making all things new.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
Reject the evil powers of this world,
And repent of our sin!**

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression In whatever forms they present themselves!

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church And serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty. in Jesus Christ, his only Son. and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!

But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Come upon these waters.

Come upon these waters.

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

Glory to you!

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

Glory to you!

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

Glory to you!

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

All who are baptized and have renewed their vows are invited to come to the font to use the water as a sign that love always shows up!

Hymn

'You Are Mine'

TFWS No. 2218

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We live in security, trusting God's abundant care. Let us give with joy, serving Jesus Christ, God's beloved child.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Loving God, you bless us with your love. You know each one of us. We live in confidence and trust, knowing your care for us. We bring these gifts to you, our source of life. Use them, we pray, that others may experience your grace and live free from fear. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

God knows your names. As God's beloved children, you belong to God. Secure in this love, go forth to live without fear, trusting God's abundant care, resting in God's peace.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

No. 898

A-men, a-men, a – men.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'Child of Blessing, Child of Promise'

No. 611 VS 1&4

*POSTLUDE

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

PRAYER REQUESTS

John McQuade—stroke
Prayers for New Orleans
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
Patti (Barbara's friend) - prayers
Judy Spencer Baker – prayers
Judy Arthurs – prayers
Those affected by tornadoes/hurricanes
Phyllis McLaughlin - prayers
Ginnie White – prayers
Big Mac (Barbara's friend) - brain cancer
Bud Wicks (South Avenue) - prayers
Hope Gaebel - prayers
Prayers for Pastor Russel
Prayers for the Shuluga Family
Chris (nephew of Ginnie & Sue) - hernia surgery
Those affected by violence
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