

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church
January 5, 2025
Epiphany of the Lord Sunday



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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

GATHERING WORDS

What gift shall we bring to honor King Jesus, who honors us with the gifts of love and grace?

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'The First Noel'

No. 245

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Bring your gifts and bring your love to honor the King of love.

People: Bring your worship and bring your praise to pay homage to Christ Jesus, our King.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we come into your presence with joy and praise, grateful for the gift of Christ Jesus in our lives. As we celebrate this gift in our service of worship, fill our hearts with Christmas joy and our spirits with the gift of your Holy Spirit. With joy and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

INTROIT

'Angels from the Realms of Glory'

No. 220, V. 3

*Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the newborn King.*

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

Ephesians 3: 1-12

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. Matthew.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ

Matthew 2: 1-12

*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 Makes Room'

Pastor Russel Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

May we prepare our hearts and spirits to receive God's mercy and healing.

GENERAL CONFESSION

Christ Jesus, we yearn for your grace to fill our lives. We yearn to accept your love so fully that our hearts might overflow with love for your world. Gift us, not just with your mercy and grace, but with an openness and confidence to receive your gifts. Shine through our hearts, our lives, and our actions, that others may find in us generous friends of grace and love. May our prayers and our actions bring your light and love to the world. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In Christ's grace, we can boldly embrace God's love. In Christ's mercy, we can confidently proclaim that God's love is enough.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing'

No. 240, V. 3

***Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and Life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"***

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May peace prosper among us until the moon is no more. May we share signs of peace and love to sustain us in this New Year.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

On this day of celebration, let us bring our gifts, as sages of old once brought gifts to Christ the King. May our gifts become the light of Christ for the world.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Thank you for the gifts of Christmas. Thank you for inviting us to bring gifts to your world. Bless the gifts we bring, that they may become vessels of Christ's light and love in the world. Amen..

SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

THE INVITATION

Pastor: Follow the star to the table of grace.

People: Here we find gifts beyond price.

Pastor: Follow the star to the table of blessing.

People: Here we find strength for the journey.

Pastor: Follow the star to the table of peace.

People: Here we find rest and refreshment.

Pastor: Follow the star to the table of Christ.

People: Here we find light and love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE SURSUM CORDA

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. In ancient days, you created us in your image to shine like the sun as reflections of your glory.

When we hid from your glory, and the brilliance of your light within us dimmed, you led us out of the garden and into the four corners of the earth.

From ancient times, through all the ages, you have saved us from the forces of darkness, and have guided us with the light of your love.

From the bondage of slavery, you led us out of Egypt with a pillar of fire, and even now, your holy fire of love leads us still.

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

**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.

SANCTUS

Holy are you and blessed is the Light of the World, Christ Jesus, whom kings from the Orient worshiped after following his natal star to a household of love.

Jesus shone with a light too wonderful for the forces of darkness to endure.

His ministry and teachings stand, even today, as beacons of justice and righteousness in a world darkened by oppression and hate.

Through Jesus' humble beginnings, you invite us to live simply, that others may simply live.

Through Christ's patient love and unfailing grace, your light shines on us with forgiveness and your grace blesses us with deliverance, that as your redeemed children, we might shine your light in the world as signs of hope and love.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

On the night when Jesus faced the darkness, he offered signs of light as he took the bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over and Jesus prepared to face his darkest fears, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, and gave it to his disciples, even those who would betray and reject him, saying:

"Drink from this, all of you; this is my life poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

With joy and gratitude, we break this bread remembering the many times Jesus was revealed to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. In remembrance, we will take and eat this bread.

With faith and hope, we take this cup, remembering Jesus' gifts of grace and forgiveness, poured out for his disciples of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. In remembrance, we will take and drink of this cup.

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts, and your signs of light and life in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as signs of light and life, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

God of grace and glory, pour out your power and presence on these gifts of bread and wine.

May they be for us the very presence of Christ in our midst.

Pour out your power and presence on us, that we may become Christ for your world:

Light upon light, Grace upon grace, Gift upon gift, for all the world to know and receive.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, as the travelers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of his love for us. For Jesus showed just how beloved we are to him, by loving us and giving himself for us in this sacrament. Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Arise; shine!
People: The world needs our light.
Pastor: Go forth with grace and love.
People: Every person needs our grace and love.
Pastor: Go forth with the gift of Christ's presence.
People: Christ's presence will save us all. Amen.



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

'We Three Kings'

No. 254, Vs. 1 & 5

*POSTLUDE

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD