

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The Divine Deliverer of compassion and care is calling us to serve, and to share our talents and treasures for the good of God's realm. No matter how we have fallen short in the past, God's grace assures us a variety of gifts to contribute. How is God calling us to share today?

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

### THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### \*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**With hearts full of love, may our spirits sing your praise. As we bring our offering before you this day, bless us and our gifts, that we may bring your holy presence where it is needed most in your world. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

God is our strength. Receive it.  
Christ is our hope. Embrace it.  
The Spirit is our joy. Share it.



### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

No. 898

### \*CLOSING HYMN

'Victory in Jesus'

No. 370

### \*POSTLUDE

## WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

## Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

February 9, 2025

5th Sunday After the Epiphany



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's 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.

### ORDER OF WORSHIP – 11:15 AM

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

### PRELUDE

### GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

### GATHERING WORDS

The voice of God calls us this day. Christ beckons us to leave our old lives behind. Will we heed? Will we follow?

## CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

### OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty'

No. 64

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Great is the grace and glory of God.

**People: We give thanks with hearts of joy.**

Pastor: Great is the strength and mercy of our creator.

**People: We give thanks with hearts of hope.**

Pastor: Great is the courage and hope of our Lord.

**People: We give thanks with hearts of faith.**

Pastor: Great is the mercy and compassion of the Holy One.

**People: We give thanks with hearts of love.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**Divine Deliverer of compassion, you call us to follow your voice. "Whom shall I send?" you asked us. With hearts of hope and souls filled with courage, we respond, "Here I am. Send me." You evaporate our shame and joyously embrace our authentic selves. May we continue to open ourselves to you, and may we embrace our full humanity as you do. Amen.**

### INTROIT

'Here I Am, Lord'

No. 593 (chorus only)

### 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 onto my feet and a light unto my path"*

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 6:1-8

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 5:1-11

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### \*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

## CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

### SERMON

'Allowing Ourselves to be Caught'

Rev. Russel Shuluga

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

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

### HYMN

'Just As I Am, Without One Plea'

No. 357, Vs. 1, 2 & 4

### GENERAL CONFESSION

**Too often, we have clung to thoughts that we are too sinful for you. Too often, we have fused our shameful pasts with a closed future. From these beliefs, we condemn ourselves to an outlook without hope. "Go away from me!" we exclaim like Peter. "I am way too lost," we think like Isaiah. But you have something different in mind. You see us as so much more. You see our divine image, and our creator-bestowed gifts. Save us from our negative self-talk, that we may embrace your calling for our lives. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The grace of God has molded us throughout our lives and will continue to do so until our final breath. God's grace is never in vain. Even as God embraces our past, God moves us into the future— a future filled with hope, and the fulfillment of dreams.

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'Grace Greater Than Our Sin'

No. 365, Vs. 1 & 2

### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Behold the children of God surrounding you. Through your words and your smiles, acknowledge the spark of the divine within them. See the presence of Christ in the faces of your neighbors, affirming that we are all treasured children of God.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**