

## CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

'Are You Living a Successful Life?'

Rev. Russel Shuluga

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

\*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Holy God, we bring this offering of our money, prayer, and labor to advance your work of mercy. We willingly and joyfully celebrate your generosity, by sharing our abundance with the church, our community, and the world. Bless these gifts, as they go forth to do good in your world without judgment or prejudice. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

\*BENEDICTION

May the peace of Christ follow you from this place.

Remember the grace of Joseph, the mercy of God, and the love of Christ.

Go beyond the Golden Rule and forgive first, love first, and give first.

Measure out a good amount of grace, for you and others, and prepare a recipe for a merciful life.



\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Danish Amen'

No. 898

\*CLOSING HYMN

'Pass It On'

No. 572 VS. 1 & 3

\*POSTLUDE

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

**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**

**February 23, 2025**

**7th 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

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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

Come into this place with a quiet heart. Be still before God and wait patiently, for the Lord is merciful.

## CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

### OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'When in Our Music God Is Glorified' No. 68 V. 1, 2 & 3

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: In these uncertain times, we come together, searching for peace.

**People: We will be still before the Lord and wait patiently.**

Pastor: We will open our hearts and minds, that the Lord may show us mercy.

**People: When we trust the Lord, we can do good things and live with one another in peace and security.**

Pastor: The Lord is our refuge in times of trouble. In God, we find forgiveness, mercy, and love.

**People: We will be still before the Lord and wait patiently.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**Holy One, we come together to pause, pray, and praise. Be with us in this place, that we may touch your mercy. You provide for us; help us claim the power of your love for our lives. Help us to measure out grace, shaking it together with forgiveness and give them to others as you would have us do. Amen.**

### INTROIT

'Be Still My Soul' No. 534 V. 1

### CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

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

### GENERAL CONFESSION

**Lord God, we come to you as imperfect creatures. Like Joseph's brothers, we're afraid of the past and are wary of the future. Yet, we yearn to feel your warm embrace. We long to touch your love and forgiveness, despite our shortcomings. Ease our journey toward mercy, as we grow in faith and love. Help us bless those who curse us and to pray for those who mistreat us. This is your direction for our lives and we will follow as we are able. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God's love and mercy are freely available to all. When we trust and delight in God's mercy, we are better able to show this mercy to those around us. Because God can do this, you can do it. We can do it together!

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'Freely, Freely' No. 389

### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ find you on your journey toward grace and mercy. May the grace of forgiveness and the kindness of mercy dwell in your hearts today.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## 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

Genesis 45: 3-11, 15

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 6:27-38

Pastor: The Gospel of the Living Christ.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### \*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70