

# Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

**March 2, 2025**

## **Transfiguration Sunday**



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

As God's glory shone in and through Christ Jesus, may God's glory shine in and through us with the beauty and grace of Christ's love.

### CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

'Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies'

No. 173

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God of the mountaintop, you call us to journey with you.

**People: Shine upon us; grant us sacred illumination; dazzle us with your beauty and glory.**

Pastor: In the midst of our weary souls and exhausted bodies,

**People: Transfigure our imaginations and reveal to us what is possible.**

Pastor: In the face of unceasing violence and endless wars,

**People: Transfigure our imaginations and reveal to us what is possible.**

Pastor: In the midst of crushing disasters, natural and human made,

**People: Transfigure our imaginations and reveal to us what is possible.**

Pastor: Move us from scarcity and cynicism and transfigure our lowly visions to reveal the abundant life of Your realm.

**People: Help us to keep watch so that we might leave the mountaintop inspired to do your work of transformation in the valley below. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

**God who dazzles, just as you revealed yourself in Christ at the mount of transfiguration, you send your Spirit now to work in our midst. Show us this day the light of your presence. Reveal to us your power and glory. Illumine our hearts and lives with your brilliance that we might envision a world transfigured in your image. Amen.**

INTROIT

'Spirit of the Living God'

No. 393

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

Exodus 34: 29-35

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 9: 28-36

### \*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

## CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

### SERMON

"Missing the Point"

Pastor Russel Shuluga

**'There's Something About That Name' No. 171**

**'His Name Is Wonderful' No. 174**

**'Majesty, Worship His Majesty' No. 176**

**'Emmanuel, Emmanuel' No. 204**

**'Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus' No. 349**

**'My Tribute' No. 99**

**'Open My Eyes, That I May See' No. 454 V. 4**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

### CALL TO CONFESSION

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

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious God, we tremble in the presence of your glory and power. Strengthen our courage, that we might look upon your love and stop shrinking away in fear. Embolden us to trust your grace, no matter how grave our transgressions or ashamed our hearts may be. Shine upon us with your mercy, that we may shine for all to see. Grant us confidence in both your grace and your abundant love. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

By God's mercy, we are redeemed and renewed to shine with the love of Christ. Thanks be to God.

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling'

No. 348 V. 4

### 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

There is only one Lord and God, from whom all things come and for whom we live. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### \*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Glorious God, shine through this offering we now return to you. May our gifts and our very lives bless your world and reveal your love. In gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

### 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!**

## THE SURSUM CORDA

Blessed are you, O Lord our God: At Mount Sinai you spoke to your servant Moses, giving the law to guide your people in the way of life that you intend for all. Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

SANCTUS

(Sung to the tune of 'Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)

No. 89

**Heav'nly hosts proclaim Your glory,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord.  
All on earth repeat the story,  
God of hosts, by all adored.  
Blest is He who comes victorious,  
In the name of God the King!  
Our Hosannas, glad and glorious,  
To the Lord of all we sing!**

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior: On a high mountain you let your glory shine, so that we might see Jesus as he really is: your Chosen and Beloved, our Lord and our God.

With humble gratitude, we remember the night when the darkness of impending death began closing in. Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to disciples, who had witnessed the glory of his transfiguration and who would soon witness his death, saying:  
"Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup, blessed it and gave it to his disciples, 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."

And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts of love and light, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving. As your covenant people and as reflections of your glory, in union with Christ's love for us, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

HYMN

'He Is Lord'

No. 177

**He is Lord, he is Lord!  
He is risen from the dead and he is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup; make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Teach us to pray night and day that we may see you face to face. Strengthen us in holiness, faithfulness, joy, and love, so that we may be ready at the coming of the Lord. By your Spirit, keep us faithful until the day when we may glimpse your glory with unveiled faces at that high and holy feast in your eternal realm.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we bless you, God of glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Sung to the tune of 'Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)

No. 89

**Thank the Lord, His praises voicing,  
For His promised faithfulness!  
All who seek the Lord, rejoicing,  
Tell His love, His name confess.  
Praise the Father, Son, and Spirit,  
Living God, who sets us free.  
By His mercy to inherit  
Life and joy eternally!**

### **CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING**

\*BENEDICTION (Sung to the tune of 'The Church's One Foundation')

No. 545

**The good Lord Bless and keep you.  
Lift up His smiling face,  
With favor look upon you  
And grant eternal peace.  
To Father, Son and Spirit,  
Most gracious One-in Three,  
The church sings ALLELUIA!  
Now and eternally.**



\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

No. 898

\*CLOSING HYMN

'All Glory, Laud and Honor'

No. 280

\*POSTLUDE

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