

## CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

In gratitude for all that God has done for us and as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, let us share our gifts with God and God's world.

### THE LORD'S OFFERING

### THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

### \*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**With glad hearts, we offer these gifts to you, O God. Transform them with the power of your Holy Spirit, that these gifts may bring forth new life. May our offering transform others' lives into the new creation you promise to all. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

May God's grace go ahead of you, trail behind you, and encircle you each and every moment, that with every move you make you would know with absolute assurance that God's steadfast love will never leave you alone. Amen.



### \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

'Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross'

No. 301 (Chorus)

*In the cross, in the cross,  
be my glory ever,  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.*

### \*CLOSING HYMN

'The First Song of Isaiah'

TFWS 2030

### \*POSTLUDE

## Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church



**March 30, 2025**

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

CENTERING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT  
'Glorify Thy Name'

TFWS 2016

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

## CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

**People: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Pastor: God's unconditional love cannot be earned, only accepted.

**People: We accept God's unconditional love and rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**

Pastor: May our worship reflect God's infinite embrace.

### OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he "came to himself." Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to You. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect So that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might notice Your arms open in welcome. Amen.

INTROIT 'You Are My Hiding Place'

TFWS No. 2055

### 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

God, we admit that we are prone to try to hide our sins; to keep our mouths shut and hope we are not found out. But there is no place to hide from you. Our silence only makes us sick in body and spirit. But you delight in forgiving us and in covering our sin. You are glad when we confess our failings and our needs. Hide us, O God, from trouble; teach us the way we should go. Deliver us from our own stubbornness, and draw us near, we pray. Amen.

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hold fast to these words of assurance: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away!" In Christ, we are reconciled indeed, for we have found our true home.

**Thanks be to God!**

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

'How Great Thou Art'

No. 77 Vs. 3

## SHARING THE PEACE

Reconciled to God through the grace of Christ, let's offer signs of reconciliation and love, as we share the peace of Christ.

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

Joshua 5:9-12

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

'Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus'

No. 349

*"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, and the things of earth will*

*Grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace."*

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 15:1-3, 11b-32

### \*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

'There Is a Ribbon for You'

Rev. Russel Shuluga

### HYMN

'Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling'

No. 348