

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Israel came out of the wilderness and into a land flowing with milk and honey. They were finally able to offer to God baskets full, in joyful celebration. We, too, bring the first fruits of all that God has so generously given us, with joy and thanksgiving.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of Deliverance, we offer back to you a portion of all that we have received, setting down our baskets in celebration of your greatest gift, Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

These Lenten days will take us to the cross of Christ. We go forward, knowing that we do not go this way alone.

*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

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church



March 9, 2025

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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

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

People: The journey begins in the wilderness.

Pastor: We follow the way of Jesus, who faced trials, trouble, temptation, and testing.

People: Like Jesus we are not alone. The Holy Spirit is with us.

Pastor: We begin our journey to the cross.

OPENING PRAYER

Sheltering God, through your Spirit, you drove your son, Jesus Christ, into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Yet, even there he was sheltered by your word. As you were to him in those trials and tribulations, be our refuge and our fortress as we begin this Lenten journey. This we pray in your good and holy name. Amen.

INTROIT 'God Will Take Care of You' No. 130 V. 4

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

We pause here to examine our lives, our temptations, and the ways we have fallen short before our God. Let us confess our sins together

GENERAL CONFESSION

Gracious God, as we begin this Lenten wilderness journey with Jesus, we confess our neglect of you and our faith. We make idols of nation, money and power. We build walls instead of better relationships. We fail to follow Jesus to the poor, the destitute, the stranger. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our faith so we can leave this wilderness season in right relationship with you. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Scripture declares, the Lord is generous to all who call on God's name. Friends, believe the good news: God does not turn away from us, but desires to bring us into the glorious freedom offered in Jesus Christ. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF ASSURANCE 'How Great Thou Art' No. 77, V. 3

SHARING THE PEACE

Jesus fasted for forty days in the desert while being tempted by the devil. At the end of this time of trial, he found the peace and strength to begin his ministry. Let us share signs of this peace, that we too may find the strength to sustain our ministries.

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 Deuteronomy 26:1-11

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 4:1-13

*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 'Worshipping Through Our Stories' Rev. Russel Shuluga