

# Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

APRIL 20, 2025

Easter Sunday



Pastor Russel contact information:

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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 has an open-door policy. Anyone wishing to speak to the pastor, is welcomed and encouraged to call. He is available 24/7.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP – 11:15 AM

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### CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

#### EASTER BEGINNINGS

Pastor: “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking spices that they had prepared so they might anoint Jesus’ body.”

Leader: Why are you weeping?

**People: We came seeking joy, but we are shrouded in darkness.**

All: “Were You There” (To be sung)

No. 288, Vs. 1

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)*

*‘Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?’*

Pastor: “They asked each other, “Who will roll away the stone from the tomb?” They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.”

Leader: Whom are you looking for?

**People: We are looking for Jesus but the tomb is empty.**

All: “Were You There” (To be sung)

No. 288, Vs. 5

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)*

*‘Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?’*

Pastor: “While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground.”

Leader: Set your mind on things above and listen to the voice of God.

**People: Our grief is too near.**

All: “Were You There” (To be sung)

No. 288, Vs. 4

*Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (were you there)*

*Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (were you there)*

*‘Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?’*

Leader: Listen to the voice calling...always calling.

Pastor: “...but then the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and on the third day rise again!”

Leader: The women remembered Jesus’ words and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

Pastor: “Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary, the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them as an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb, stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves, then he went home, amazed at what had happened.’

## EASTER FANFARE

### LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

**People: May the light of Christ, who rises this day in glory, scatter the darkness of our hearts and minds.**

Pastor: The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

**People: Christ is our light!**

### PLACING THE PASCHAL CANDLE AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

'The Day of Resurrection'

Bell Choir

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.**

## EASTER CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope. Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen, indeed.**

Pastor: We run to the tomb to see for ourselves. And it is true, Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen, indeed.**

Pastor: We hear a voice call our name and we know our risen Lord is with us now and always. Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen, indeed. Thanks be to God.**

\*OPENING HYMN

'Christ the Lord is Risen Today'

No. 302 V. 1-4

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!  
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!  
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

OPENING PRAYER

**O God of all days, we come this morning with eager anticipation. We Seek to know you, to see you, to touch you. Open our hearts that we might experience you anew. Open our lives that we may be faithful witnesses to your resurrection. May we, with shots of joy.**

INTROIT

'He Lives'

No. 310, V. 3

**Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing  
eternal hal-le-l-jahs to Jesus Christ the King!  
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;  
none other is so loving, so good and kind.**

**He lives (he lives) he lives (he lives) Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He lives (he lives) he lives (he lives) salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

'O Bright Easter Day'  
William J. Reynolds

Children's Choir

**CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

**Pastor:** Living Christ, prepare us once more to hear your resurrection message.

**People:** **Open our hearts to the joyous gift of life shared with us this day. And open our minds to your presence, each and every day.**

CHORAL RESPONSE HYMN

'Crown Him with Many Crowns'

No. 327, V. 4

*Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
Those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;  
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.*

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 15:19-26

**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.**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you,

**People:** **and also with you.**

**Pastor:** A reading from the Gospel of St. John.

**People:** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

\*THE GOSPEL IS READ

John 20:1-18

\*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Living Christ.

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

*Thine by the glory, risen, Conquering Son;  
endless is the victory though o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave clothes where the body lay.  
Thine by the glory, risen conquering Son,  
endless is the victory though o'er death has won.*

### CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

SERMON

'Named and Claimed'

Rev. Russel Shuluga

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

'Because He Lives'  
(Chorus Only)

No. 364

*Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;  
because he lives, all fear is gone;  
because I know he holds the future,  
and life is worth the living just because he lives.*

### CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The gift of God is here with us, for the presence of the risen Christ is with us always. In gratitude, may we offer our gifts, as we give thanks to the Lord, who is good. Truly, God's steadfast love endures forever.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

\*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**God of great gifts: This morning we give you praise, we give you glory, we give you thanks! With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of peace! We joyfully present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come! AMEN.**

### CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Come out! Jesus commands.

**People: And calls us from the tombs of our existence into the brightness of a new day.**

Pastor: Come out! Jesus cries.

**People: And unbinds us from the chains of our past.**

Pastor: Come out! Jesus calls.

**People: And entices us into a world filled with grace and possibility.**

Pastor: So – go out!

**People: Into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!**

Pastor: Go out!

**People:** Into a world that needs the Spirit of God carried on our lips and in our loving arms.

**Pastor:** Go out!

**People:** Into the world to live as God's resurrected people!

**Pastor:** Go out: and go on the breath of God's holy wind!



\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

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

No. 898

\*OUR EASTER RESPONSE

'Up from the Grave He Arose'

No. 322

***Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,  
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose, he arose with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
He arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!***

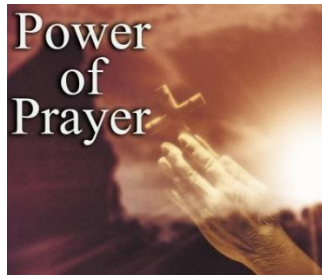
***Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior;  
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose, he arose with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
He arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!***

***Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;  
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave he arose, he arose with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
He arose a victor from the dark domain, and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!***

\*POSTLUDE

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

*Mifflin Avenue would like to thank David Riggs, guest trumpeter, for being with us today. Thank you for sharing your gifts.*



Church Union/The Bridge (formerly called Bethany House) - fire

Judy Spencer Baker - prayers

Prayers for the Spencer/Baker Families

John McQuade - prayers

Hope Gaebel - prayers

Patti (Barbara's friend) - prayers

Big Mac (Barbara's friend) - brain cancer

Rev. David Morse

Those affected by violence

Ed (son of Ginnie White) - broken shoulder

Mel (Robert) - (Barbara's brother) - prayers

People of Israel

People of Gaza & the West Bank

Judy Arthurs – prayers

Those affected by tornadoes/hurricanes

Ginnie White – prayers

Bud Wicks (South Avenue) - prayers

Prayers for Pastor Russel

Prayers for the Shuluga Family

Chris (nephew of Ginnie & Sue) - hernia surgery

Middle East conflict

Morris's children

Those who need prayers and don't ask for prayers

People who are traveling

Those affected by COVID, RSV and the FLU

Gary White (Ginnie's son) - COPD

Aubri (Ginnie's granddaughter) – cancer

Joe (Ginnie & Sue's nephew) - cancer

Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball

Rev. Paul Ritchey - Pittsburgh/Greensburg DS

People of Ukraine

Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

United Methodist Church



<i><b>FLOWERS:</b></i>	<i><b>IN MEMORY OF:</b></i>	<i><b>GIVEN BY:</b></i>
Hyacinths (1)	Our Parents	Barbara & Robert Thaw
Tulips (2)	Loved Ones	Gail Gratton
Lilies (1)	Loved Ones	Candy & Dai Morgan
Tulips (1)	Larry Harvey	Paulette Harvey
Mums (1)		
Tulips (2)	Our Parents	Viehlands
Tulips (1)	Marie Malczak	Diane Norkus
Mums (1)	Tom Whitehead – 20 years	Tina Whitehead
Daffodils (1)	Our Parents	Judy Arthurs & Marilyn Moreman



<i><b>FLOWERS</b></i>	<i><b>IN HONOR OF:</b></i>	<i><b>GIVEN BY:</b></i>
Hyacinths (1)	Our Grown Kids	Barbara & Robert Thaw
Lilies (1)	Pastor Russel	Mifflin Avenue UMC
Daffodils (1)	Our Grandchildren:	Candy & Dai Morgan
Mums (1)	Cole, Jane & Ryan	
Hyacinths (1)		
Hyacinths (1)	Judy Baker	The Mitchells
Lilies (1)		