

# Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church



**April 6, 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.

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

11:15 AM

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### CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

PRELUDE

GREETING, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

CENTERING HYMN

'Glorify Thy Name'

TFWS 2016

### CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: When we have been hurt and lost,

**People: God brings us laughter and joy.**

Pastor: When our lives reach a dead end,

**People: God opens a way forward.**

Pastor: When the rivers of our lives dry up,

**People: God sends living water to quench our thirst.**

Pastor: God has done great things for us!

**People: Let us rejoice!**

OPENING PRAYER

**Jesus, you who face death in love for us, we kneel before you and pour out the perfume of our hearts. Your feet, that carry you to us, we anoint. May the fragrance of our love for you fill your house. Amen.**

INTROIT

'The Lord Went to a Dinner'

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

(Sung to the tune "O Jesus, I Have Promised" No. 396)

**The Lord went to a dinner, and Mary took perfume.  
As she anointed Jesus, the fragrance filled the room.  
She'd sat as a disciple, she'd been a faithful friend,  
and now, with costly fragrance, she honored Christ again.**

**Soon Judas was complaining, "This gift could have been sold;  
We could have helped the poor here — the young ones and the old.  
Yet Jesus said, "My people will always help the poor,  
but Mary chose to give this — to me, her dying Lord."**

**Her gift was her expression of thankfulness and praise,  
and so it makes us wonder, in these long Lenten days:  
What would we give to Jesus if he sat at our meal?  
What gift would be our kindness and what would it reveal?**

**O Lord, today we offer the best that we can bring —  
our worship as a fragrance, our love, an offering.  
And now, as we're reminded the poor are with us still,  
we pray that we may serve them — to honor you, as well.**

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

Isaiah 43:16-21

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. John.

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

\*THE GOSPEL IS READ

John 12:1-8

\*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

'Loving Jesus Extravagantly'

Rev. Russel Shuluga

## CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

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

GENERAL CONFESSION

**Compassionate God, we do not always see the harvest of joy that we sow from our tears. Some losses take hold of us and we dwell in disappointment and grief. We don't always know what to think of you. We want to embrace new life, hope, and joy, but don't always know how. Bless us with your merciful help that we might walk from our tombs like Lazarus, and sit by Jesus' side, eating and laughing. Help us kneel at Jesus' feet in love and commitment, as we celebrate our new lives. Come to us, healing God, and renew us and our love for you. Amen.**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God promises to do great things for us. God comforts us and brings us with new life. Blessed are you, our God of compassion and hope. Amen.

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 COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The Spirit of Christ visits us in this place. Let us respond by giving the best of our treasures and talents for the work of God's church in the world.

THE LORD'S OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

\*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Receive, O God, all that we are: our treasures, our time, our talents, and even our forgiven flaws. May your grace be made known through our giving, that others may be healed by the Spirit of Christ, our Friend. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come freely, for this table of grace is here for all.

Come confidently, for this table of love offers blessings beyond our wildest dreams.

Come humbly, for this table is set by Christ, who humbled himself to both live and die in his great love for us.

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your heart.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

**It is good and beautiful to give God our praise.**

### THE SURSUM CORDA

Jesus came to Bethany six days before Passover, the celebration of our liberation from slavery in Egypt.

**God, you have delivered us from bondage to sin, established your Covenant with us, and set us free to serve you all the days of our lives.**

Jesus went to the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.

**God, you have raised us to new life, transforming us in the Spirit of Christ so that we may live in love and not fear.**

In Bethany they gave a dinner for Jesus.

**You gather us at your table, God to remember Jesus, your Christ.**

He taught and healed, he forgave sinners, he shared the sufferings of the poor, he called us to repentance, and he ate with outcasts.

**He shows us your love, God, by giving of his own.**

### SANCTUS

So with those who long to know you, with those who run to be with you, we offer our songs of thanksgiving:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of new things.**

**All creation honors you with praise and joy.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to take hold of us.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

Receiving the Body of Christ, we become the body of Christ as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Dying, Christ destroys our death.**

**Rising, Christ restores our life.**

**Christ shall come again in glory.**

## REMEMBERING AND THANKSGIVING

On the night in which he gave himself for us Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, blessed it with thanks and gave it to them, saying, "Drink of this, all of you. This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, in a new Covenant, Which is the forgiveness of sin."

As long as we break this bread and share this cup we remember his death and resurrection, until he comes again.

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Mary took a pound of the finest perfume, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair.

**We bring our finest gifts to you, O God, the gifts of our hearts and our hands, that through our faith all people may be fed by this holy meal.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts, O God that they may be for us the Body and Blood of the crucified and risen Christ.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and let its fragrance fill the house.**

Gather us in your love, together with all who share in this meal.

**Renew your Holy Spirit within us, that anointed by your love, we may be made holy, set apart for your purposes in the name of Christ.**

Jesus said that Mary had prepared him for his burial. May we be unafraid of suffering in the cause of love.

By your grace, through our faith, may we bring grace and healing to all.

**God of all creation, May your Word be made flesh By Your Holy Church, in the love of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Gracious God, we thank you for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. You have anointed us with your Spirit, laid your healing hands on us, and prepared us for all that is to come. Send us into world unafraid to suffer for the sake of love, in the name and the Spirit of Christ. Amen.**

## CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

### \*BENEDICTION

May our service to others become a fragrant gift in God's name. Go with God, the one who is about to do a new thing in and through us. 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

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