

\*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

\*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

**PROCLAIMING**

SERMON

“The Pain of Grief”

Rev. Russel W. Shuluga

**RESPONDING**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Nourished by the bread of heaven and the living waters of salvation, let us return thanks to God as we receive today’s offering.

THE LORD’S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Bountiful God, in praise and thanksgiving for your many blessings, receive our tithes and offerings, that they may be for the world signs of the bread of heaven and the fullness of your grace. For we came here hungry for your Spirit, and you fed us with food that satisfies. We came here thirsting for your grace, and you revived us in our need. In humble thanks, we thank you. Amen.**

**SENDING**

\*BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord look kindly on you, and give you peace.



\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Danish Amen”

No. 898

\*CLOSING HYMN

“Because He Lives”

No. 364, vs. 1 & 3

\*POSTLUDE

“Praise Ye The Lord”

R. Moorpark

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



**Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church**

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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 a greeter or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us.

**AUGUST 8, 2021**

**11:15AM**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**CENTERING**

PRELUDE

“For Me To Live Is Jesus”

J.G. Walther

*(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)*

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: God sees our sadness and despair.

People: **We bring our broken hearts to God.**

HYMN

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

No. 474, v. 1

**Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,**

**I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:**

**REFRAIN**

**Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

Pastor: God comes and walks with us in our darkness.

People: **We reach for God’s hand in our lostness.**

HYMN "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" No. 474, v. 2  
*When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,  
when my life is almost gone, hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall!  
REFRAIN: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

Pastor: God guides us towards the light and to hope.  
People: **With God's help, we will hope again.**

HYMN "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" No. 474, v. 3  
*When the darkness appears and the night draws near,  
and the day is past and gone, at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:  
REFRAIN: Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

## PRAISING

OPENING HYMN & BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" No. 155, vs. 1 & 6

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Come, people of God. Come and find refuge and strength.  
People: **Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.**  
Pastor: Come, heirs with Christ. Come and find forgiveness and joy.  
People: **Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.**  
Pastor: Come, people of faith. Come to the one who is attentive to our pleas.  
People: **Our souls wait for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.**

### OPENING PRAYER

**We praise you, O God, because you are hope. You are life and light in the midst of darkness and death. Help us to trust in you when life is bleak so that we may find hope that brings life abundantly into our existence. Amen.**

"Hymn of Promise" No. 707, v. 2  
*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me,  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

### CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

## CONFESSING

### CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess to God and before one another our sins and especially when we fall into despair forgetting that God is our everlasting hope.

HYMN "God, Hear My Plea" (Sung to the tune "Abide with Me", No. 700)  
*1. God, hear my plea as unto you I cry.  
From deep despair, Lord, hear my every sigh.  
I call to you, assured you care for me.  
Grant your forgiveness, God, hear my plea.*  
*2. I wait for you, O Lord, for you I wait,  
Trusting your grace to free me from sin's weight.  
No one but you, O Lord, can set me free.  
Breathe new life in my soul, God, hear my plea.*

### GENERAL CONFESSION

**We confess to you, O God, and before one another that we have sinned. We have allowed the conditions of our lives to rob us of our joy. We have forgotten the power of love that you bring into our lives. We act as if the powers of this world have the last say. In our focusing on ourselves and our condition we have forgotten that you are the very foundation of our lives. Restore our sight so that we might see you at work in our lives. Lift us once more to that hope that is based on you. Amen.**

### SILENT CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is our hope and our salvation. Trust in God and share God's hope with others.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE "God, Hear My Plea" (Sung to the tune "Abide with Me", No. 700)  
*3. Your word gives hope, and courage to go on.  
A night of prayer gives way to morning's sun.  
Renewed in faith, my song shall ever be:  
Hold me within your palm, God, hear my plea.*  
*4. Redemption shall God, to his people give;  
Freed from iniquities, in him we live.  
Knowing God's favour, fills the heart with glee.  
Bestow your peace on all, God, hear my plea.*

## HEARING

### 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 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33  
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"**

### \*GOSPEL LESSON

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 6:35, 41-51