

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

* Please stand if able

PRELUDE *Festive Celebration on "Arlington"* Arr. Gilbert M. Martin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Leader: In God's world, all things are possible.

People: Those called unclean are made whole.

Leader: The weak become strong.

People: Night yields to day.

Leader: Mourning grows into dancing.

People: Joy comes from weeping.

Leader: Calls for help bring God's certain answer.

People: In God's world, all things are possible.

* HYMN *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* No. 466

CALL TO PRAYER (Please be seated.) Elder

PRAYER OF RENEWAL (Unison)

Leader: Let us pray

**All: Creator God, you give wisdom to those who serve,
but we would rather be served.**

**We search for easy answers and fast tracks,
even in our work on your behalf.**

**We do not make time to study and pray
that we may discern your leading.**

Forgive us.

Slow us down, that we may seek your wisdom.

**Teach us that you are indeed among us,
and show us the way to faithful living.**

(Time for Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

People: The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Leader: Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

People: Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Please stand) No. 479

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven, Glad of heart your carols raise;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Who, like me, should sing God's praise?
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!**

HEARING THE WORD

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:40-45 Pg. 33

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Bell Peal on "Lasst Uns Erfreuen"* Arr. Linda R. Lamb
Ridge Ringers

OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 Kings 5:1-14 Pgs. 340-341

TIME FOR CHILDREN (As the children come forward, please join in singing.)

This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.

Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.

SERMON *Better Rivers* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand)

**Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers
that enslaved and degraded people,
yet he made no use of power to protect himself.**

**He healed those who were sick in body and mind,
yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself.**

**He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him
above loyalty to family and country,
yet he lived among them as a servant.**

**Jesus taught with authority,
challenging many time-honored customs and ideas,
yet he submitted to humiliation and death
without a word on his own behalf.**

He forgave sinners, yet he was counted among sinners.

We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority.

**In both his majesty and lowliness
Jesus is the eternal Son of God, God with us." Amen.**

--A Declaration of Faith (1977)

* HYMN *Healer of Our Every Ill* *Sing the Faith* No. 2213

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16
(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Hark! I Hear The Harps Eternal* Arr. by Gilbert M. Martin

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

No. 591

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Laura Sugg

Leader: O God of life,
of all life and of each life, we lay our lives before you.
We give our lives to you, from whom nothing in us is hidden.

Women/Girls: You are before us, God, you are behind;

Men/Boys: You are around us, God, you are within.

Leader: O God of life,
you know the secret thoughts of every heart.

Women/Girls: We bring the faith that is in us, and the doubt;

Men/Boys: We bring the joy that is in us, and the sorrow.

Leader: O God of life, you are in the light and in the darkness.

Women/Girls: We bring the knowledge that is in us, and the ignorance.

Men/Boys: We bring the hope that is in us, and the despair.

Leader: O God of life, O generous Spirit,

All: Renew us with your life, today, tomorrow, and always. Amen.

* HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

No. 288

* CHARGE & BLESSING

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

***May the Lord go with you as you leave this place,
May the Lord go with you as you celebrate His grace.
May you be surrounded by His love unbounded,
May the Lord go with you as you leave this place.***

POSTLUDE

Minuet Finale

George Frederick Handel

From the *Music For The Royal Fireworks*

Arr. E. Power Biggs

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: JoAnn Flores

Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly

Greeters: Jeanne and Chuck Miller

Ushers: Maxine Foster and Pat Robbins

Sound Engineer: Jim Niquette

Speaker for Children's Time: Addie Crabbe

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Director of C. E., Children and Youth: Addie Crabbe C.E. Assistant: Rachael Axtman

Organist, Handbell Director: Julie Pulliam, M.A.

Choir Director: Kevin Crowe, M.M.

Treasurer: Eileen Gardner, C.P.A.

Assistant Treasurer: Caroline Clovesko

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Garner



*What do I love about this story? [2 Kings 5:1-14]
Servants telling their masters what to do.
Enemy kings doing one another's bidding.
Elisha's moxie. Nathan's injured pride
overcome by his desire to be made whole.
The backstairs conversations between servant
and mistress, the official missive from one king
to another, the Syrian "dissing" of the River
Jordan.*

— Peter Hawkins

February 15, 2015

WPC Mission Statement

*To worship God through faith and action,
to nurture the spirit of Jesus Christ in each of us,
to be an extended family to all,
and to serve the community
through programs, education and prayer.*