

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

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

* Please stand if able

PRELUDE *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* Ithamar Conkey
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Lani Smith

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

LENTEN CANDLE READING Diane and Don MacDougall
(Sing as readers walk to the front)
Lord, who throughout these forty days For us didst fast and pray. Tune: No. 81
Teach us with thee to mourn our sins, And close by Thee to stay.

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder
Leader: O give thanks to the Lord, who is good. From Psalm 107
People: God’s steadfast love endures forever.
Leader: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.
People: Let those God redeemed from trouble say so.
Leader: Let those God gathered in from every direction say so.
People: God saved, God healed, God delivered.
Leader: Give thanks for God’s steadfast love and wonderful works to humanity.
People: Come to offer thanksgiving and sing songs of joy.

* HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* No. 376

CALL TO PRAYER (Please be seated) Elder

PRAYER OF RENEWAL (Unison) Elder
**Ever-loving God,
we are quick to rail against you.
We ask “Why?” and “Why us?”
We complain that you are not paying attention.
Loving God, save us from our distress.
Steadfast God, save us from ourselves.
Healing God, deliver us, and make us whole.**

(Time for Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

Leader: Friends, believe the good news:
in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**People: In the strength of that forgiveness may we
more clearly see the truth,
more bravely face the world,
more lovingly serve our neighbor,
more joyfully follow Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Numbers 21:4-9 Pg. 142

Leader: The word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Inscription of Hope* Z. Randall Stroope
Enjoy the words of this anthem in the bulletin announcements

GOSPEL READING John 3:14-21 Pg. 88

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 *Restored in Christ: Broken Trust* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Please Stand)*
**In a broken and fearful world
the spirit gives us courage.
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as our Lord and Savior
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.**
**In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God’s new heaven and earth,
praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**
**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

—from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (1991)

* HYMN *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here* No. 353

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

SONG *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* STF 2200
*(Sung several times, followed by a period of silence.
 Laura will conclude the silence by saying, "Amen.")*

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *The Old Rugged Cross* George Bernard
 Ridge Ringers Arr. Arnold Sherman

* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING Tune: Hymnal No. 422
**Lord, whose love in humble service Bore the weight of human need,
 Who upon the cross, forsaken, Worked your mercy's perfect deed:
 We, your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart;
 Consecrating to your purpose Every gift which you impart.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Laura Sugg
**Gracious God,
 we thank you for the glimpses of your glory,
 and the whispered words of your promise,
 which help us to continue from day to day.
 Help us to press onward in the journey of faith,
 trusting your grace for today and tomorrow,
 accepting the cost and joy of discipleship to
 Jesus Christ, our faithful guide. Amen.**

* HYMN *Lift High the Cross* No. 371

* CHARGE & BLESSING

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE No. 81
***Abide with us, that so, this life Of suffering overpast,
 An Easter of unending joy We may attain at last!***

POSTLUDE *March from the 5th Symphony* Ludwig van Beethoven



***"The judge will be Christ. In other words the one who judges us
 most finally will be the one who love us most fully. ...The worst sentence
 Love can pass is that we behold the suffering that Love has endured
 for our sake, and that is also our acquittal. The justice and mercy
 of the judge are ultimately one."***

— Frederick Buechner

March 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.*

*Please come through to Fellowship Hall to enjoy a wonderful St. Patrick's Day Lunch.
 Free will offering will be given to the National Sports Center for the Disabled.*