

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

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

* Please stand if able

PRELUDE *Lonesome Valley* Traditional American Folk Melody
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Lani Smith

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

LENTEN CANDLE READING Betty and Jim Piperato
(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: God invites us to see the presence of the Holy in all the earth.
God calls us to find sacred signposts in our own lives.
God tells us:

People: In my foolishness, find your wisdom.
In my weakness, find your strength.

Leader: God tells us:

People: In my laws, find freedom.
In my anger, find justice.

Leader: God tells us:

People: In dying, find life.
In endings, find new beginnings.

* HYMN *The Glory of These Forty Days* No. 87

CALL TO PRAYER (Please be seated) Elder

PRAYER OF RENEWAL (Unison) Elder

**Holy God, you gave commandments to your chosen people
that they might live together before you.**
We would rather argue about them than live by them.
Some of us have made idols of them;
some of us consider them quaint and irrelevant.
O God, in your mercy, forgive us.
Remind us that even your foolishness is wiser than we can imagine.
Remind us that your commandments are sweeter than honey.
Write your law on our hearts, that we might live for you.

(Time for Silent Prayer)

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

People: We believe, O God, that we have been forgiven.
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.

HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 20:1-17 Pgs. 67-68

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *We Shall Overcome* Arr. Renato Tagliabue

GOSPEL READING John 2:13-22 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 Justice* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Please Stand)*

“Jesus was what we are.
He felt deeply the joy of friendship and the hurt of being rejected.
Jesus prayed, struggled with temptation, knew anger,
and was subject to suffering and death.
He was like us in every way except sin.
Jesus was what we should be.
He served God with complete trust and unwavering obedience.
He loved all kinds of people and accepted their love.
In constant dependence upon the Holy Spirit,
Jesus allowed no temptation or threat
to keep him from loving God with his whole being
and his neighbor as himself.
We recognize in Jesus what God created us to be.
He exposes our failure to live as he lived.
He demonstrates the new humanity
God promises to give us through him.” Amen.

* HYMN

Inspired by Love and Anger

(See insert)

Inspired by Love and Anger

Tune: Salley Gardens Irish Traditional
Arr. JLB

**Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
Informed of God's own bias, we ask him once again:
'How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self interest turn prayer and pity blind?'**

**To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,
we offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:
'When will the wrong be righted? When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?'**

**God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?
And who, when few bid, welcome, will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?'**

**Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,
attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and wrote,
a savior without safety, a tradesman without tools
has come to tip the balance, with fisherman and fools.**

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