

## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

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

\* Please stand if able

PRELUDE *Jesus Shall Reign* Tune: Duke Street, John Hatton  
Arr. Dorothy Wells

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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Leader: Hallelujah! Praise God in the holy temple.

**People: Give praise in the firmament of heaven.**

Leader: Praise God who is mighty in deed.

**People: Give praise for God's excellent greatness.**

Leader: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

**People: Hallelujah!**

Leader: Sisters and brothers, praise the Lord!

\* HYMN *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* No.104

CALL TO PRAYER (Please be seated) Elder

PRAYER OF RENEWAL (Unison) Elder

**O God,**

**Your love is boundless and your grace exceeds our imaginations.**

**You keep finding ways to be among us,**

**even when our hearts are hidden,**

**even when the doors of our souls are locked.**

**You seek us out.**

**We cannot hide, but we can confess that sin has us in its grip.**

**It has led us from your ways and corrupted our best intentions,**

**making us believe that you don't notice,**

**that you aren't even present.**

**Correct our vision. Cleanse our hearts.**

**Create in us a place where we can welcome you**

**and receive the fullness of what you have given us in Jesus Christ.**

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Leader: If we are in Christ, we are a new people altogether;  
the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.

**People: In your great mercy, O God,  
raise us from the death of sin to newness of life  
and make us your people, unburdened by the past,  
unfearful of the future, and joyful in the eternal present,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\* GLORIA No. 113

**"Christ the Lord is risen to-day!" Al-le-lu-ia!**

**All cre-a-tion join to say; Al-le-lu-ia!**

**Raise your joys and triumphs high; Al-le-lu-ia!**

**Sing, O heav'ns, and earth reply, Al-le-lu-ia!**

## HEARING THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING Revelation 1:4-8 Pg. 234

GOSPEL READING John 20:19-31 Pgs.109 -110

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *We Will Rejoice and Be Glad* Mark Patterson

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 *Beginning and Ending* Laura Sugg

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Please Stand)*

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,**

**Born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.**

**A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.**

**He descended into the earth to the place of death.**

**On the third day he rose from the tomb.**

**He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,**

**and his kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,**

**life-giving breath of the church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,**

**source of resurrection and eternal life. Amen**

\* HYMN *We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight* No. 399

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones* Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen,  
Geisliche Kirchengesang  
Arr. Lani Smith

\* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING Tune: Hymnal No. 592

***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

\* HYMN *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!* No. 341  
(The refrain will be sung twice following the third verse.)

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE No. 108

***Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
Good news to this and every age,  
Till earth and sky and ocean ring  
With joy, with justice, love and praise.***

POSTLUDE *Processional of Joy* Ludwig van Beethoven  
Arr. Hal H. Hopson

*Please come through to Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.*

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Pulpit Elder: Betsy Smith  
Greeter: Jeff Stimson  
Sound Engineer: Sean Mestdagh  
Flowers: Diane and Don MacDougall

Deacon Reader: Janette Powers  
Ushers: Jeff Stimson and Ted Willis  
Visitor Desk: Ruth Breckon

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*What we call the beginning is often the end.  
And to make an end is to make a beginning.  
The end is where we start from.*  
— T.S. Elliot

*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.*

***Second Sunday of Easter  
April 12, 2015***