

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

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

* Please stand if able

PRELUDE *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* Arr. Henry Balcombe

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Leader: God leads us into places filled with life.

People: God carries us through darkness and comforts us with gentleness.

Leader: God feed us and sustains us with more goodness than we can imagine.

People: let us worship the One God, our Lord and Shepherd.

* HYMN *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!* No.111

CALL TO PRAYER (Please be seated) Elder

PRAYER OF RENEWAL (Unison) Elder

**Emptier of tombs, we find ourselves running down the street after lies,
rather than walking with you.**

**We find it easy to love other people,
as long as they don't annoy or bother us.**

**We hunger for love and search for affirmation,
yet find it difficult to let others love us for who we are.**

Forgive us, Compassionate Heart.

You listen to the whispers of our hearts, and then sing promises of hope.

You grace us with peace, so our hearts can rest in you.

**You continue to transform us into Easter people,
brothers and sisters of our Lord and Savior, 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

EPISTLE READING

1 John 3:16-24

Pg. 230

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Patrick M. Liebergen

Congregation please sing along with the choir when directed for this part (see text below)

Christ lives today! Rejoice with praise!

To God with grateful songs we raise.

The Lord is risen from the grave,

The Son of God now lives to save.

Sing out with joy! The day is done!

Give thanks and praise the Holy One.

Let all creation lift on high.

The Lord who lives no more to die.

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

Walking the Walk

Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Please Stand)*

Elder

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives that recognize
all cultures as our neighbors on this planet.**

Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements

in serving and helping our neighbor,

to treat our neighbor's needs as our own,

to care passionately for the other's good,

to share what we have.

It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity,

avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival.

We are obligated to speak the truth in love,

to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies

to accept risk and pain which love involves.

—from A Declaration of Faith (1977)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

