

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

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

* Please stand if able

PRELUDE

Classical Easter
Ridge Ringers

Arr. Michael Heinman

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand)

Elder

Leader: Rejoice and be glad:

People: This is the day that the Lord has made!

Leader: Rejoice and be glad:

People: Heaven and earth will never be the same!

Leader: Rejoice and be glad:

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Leader: Let none hold back joy at the good news of this day,

People: for Christ has triumphed over sin and death.

Leader: Rejoice and be glad: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

* HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

No.123

CALL TO PRAYER (Please be seated)

Elder

PRAYER OF RENEWAL (Unison)

Elder

God of endless possibility,

**we confess that we do not always perceive the opportunities
you place before us.**

**Caught up in our own hopes, plans, and fantasies,
and crushed when they disappoint us,**

we are slow to see the open pathways you set before us.

**Open our eyes, that we may accept the new life you offer us,
and thus show forth the resurrection of 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

GOSPEL READING

John 20:1-18

Pg.109

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Almighty

Wayne Watson

Arr. Don Hart

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

Something to Hold On To

Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Please Stand)*

In life and in death we belong to God.

**through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God; preaching good news to the poor
and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children, healing the sick
and binding up the brokenhearted,
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for sins of the world.**

**God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,
breaking the power of sin and evil,
delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.**

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *I Know My Redeemer Liveth from "Messiah"* George Frederick Handel
Kevin Crowe, Tenor Edited by T. Tertius Noble

* 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.**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE
PRAYER OF CONSECRATION
SERVING COMMUNION

Bread is taken individually. Juice/wine is taken together. Wine is in the outer rings of tray.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

**We praise you, O God, and give you thanks
that you have given us such joy, such grace, and such hope,
in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Let our lives be proof of that good news.

**Let all our words and actions, our love and service
bear witness to your resurrection power;
for the sake of our living Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

* HYMN *Thine is the Glory* No. 122

* CHARGE & BLESSING

* 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 *The Strife is O'er* Giovanni da Palestrina
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr.Lani Smith

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.



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.*

***Easter
April 5, 2015***