

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

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

* Please stand if able

PRELUDE *The Festive Trumpet* Dennis Eliot

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Leader: From the comfort of our homes, with the discomfort of discipleship:

People: we gather in this place created by God for community.

Leader: In our gardens battling weeds, with our neighbors serving needs:

People: we are enveloped in that gift offered by Christ called grace.

Leader: Through the witness of the little known, through words of a children's song:

**People: we learn the truth passed on to us
by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.**

* HYMN *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* No. 411

CALL TO PRAYER (Please be seated) Elder

Christ has promised to be with us, yet we live as if we have been left all alone,
on our own. Let us confess our rootlessness, as we pray.

PRAYER OF RENEWAL (Unison) Elder

**You call to us, God of mercy,
but we are too busy listening to the whispers
of those who would draw us away from you.**

**Rather than following Jesus as you hope,
we are filling in the potholes on sin's streets
for a more comfortable journey.**

**You promise to keep watch over us,
but we hope you will close your eyes to how we treat others.
Forgive us, Author of life. Forgive our low expectations of discipleship
and give us opportunities to serve your people.**

**Forgive our faltering faith
and fill us with the delight and joy we find as your children.**

(Time for Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Leader: Amen. In forgiveness, God plants us deep in the rich soil of mercy
and grace, our lives watered by hope, our joy made complete in Jesus Christ.

**People: The fruit we bear – hope, love, peace – is not our doing,
but comes from the seeds God has planted within us.
Thanks be to God. 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 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Pgs. 111-112

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *The Time for Singing Has Come* Natalie Sleeth

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 *Electing an Apostle* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

The same Spirit

**who inspired the prophets and the apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

**In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of people long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace.
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. Amen**

—from A Brief Statement of Faith (1991)

* HYMN *Come Down, O Love Divine* No. 313

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Come Unto Me* John M. Rasley

* 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 *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!* No. 430

* 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 *Sing To The Lord* Lani Smith

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores
Greeter: Jeff Stimson
Sound Engineer: Jim Niquette
Flowers: Jim and Betty Piperato

Deacon Reader: Patty Goward Murray
Ushers: Karen Ledgerwood and Roberta Todd
Children's Time: Roxanne Foster
Visitor Desk: Pat Robbins



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.*

***Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2015***