

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 Glory of God in Nature* Ludwig van Beethoven

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Leader: The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows forth the work of God's hands.

**People: One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Leader: Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard.

**People: their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world.**

Leader: Sisters and brothers, praise the Lord!

People: The Lord's name be praised!

* HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* (See insert)

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Unison) Elder

Leader: Trusting in the mercy of our loving God, let us confess the ways we,
and the world, have gone astray. Let us pray...

People:

**Gracious God,
forgive us when we fail to notice the changing clouds,
the trail of the snail, the light of the mountains,
the fur of a puppy or kitten.**

**Forgive us our small creation culpability in six-pack rings, insecticide,
exhaust, long showers or plastic bags,
and the times we are too busy or too frugal to be "green" activists.**

**Forgive us when we amputate body and spirit
from your gracious gift of renewal by indoor-ing ourselves,
for we pray in the name of Jesus who slept under the stars.**

(Time for Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Leader: Christ hunts us like lost sheep
and reminds us of the priorities of songbirds.
We are forgiven, inspired, and offered the most amazing responsibilities
to make a difference.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Tune: Salzburg

***Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high"
Heaven and earth, awake and sing, "God is our eternal King"
Praise God, all ye hosts above, ever shining forth in love;
Sun and moon, uplift your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!***

HEARING THE WORD

PSALTER READING Psalm 8

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Let There Be* Stephen Schwartz
Kevin Crow, tenor

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 *Finding God in Nature* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**God made human beings along with all the other creatures
and charged them to care for the earth and all that lives on it.**

**We acknowledge we share in the interdependence
that binds together all God's creation.**

**Yet God gives us power to rule and tame,
to order and reshape the world.**

We hold the earth in trust for future generations of living things.

The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul and destroy the earth.

**The Lord expects us to produce, to consume,
to reproduce in ways that make earth's goodness
available to all people and reflect God's love for all creatures.**

**The Lord bids us use our technical skills
for beauty, order, health and peace. Amen**

—from A Declaration of Faith (1977)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (For Lord's Prayer words see insert.)
(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

*HYMN *God of the Sparrow* (See insert.)

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Open Up Your Heart and Let the Sun Shine In* Stuart Hamblen

* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING Tune: Old Hundredth

*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 (Unison) Laura Sugg

**The sky does it simply, naturally day by day by day.
The sun does it joyfully, like someone in love,
like a runner on a starting line.
The sky, the sun, they just can't help themselves.
No loud voices, no grand speeches,
but everyone sees, and is happy with them.
Make us like that, Lord,
so that our faith is not in our words, but in our lives,
not in what we say but in who we are,
passing on your love like an infectious laugh:
not worried, not threatening, just shining like the sun,
like a starry night, like a lamp on a stand, light for life—
your light for our lives. Amen.**

* HYMN *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (See insert.)

* CHARGE & BLESSING

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Trees of the Field* Isaiah 55:12

***You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.***

POSTLUDE *How Majestic is Your Name* Michael W. Smith
Arr. Fred Bock

Please come 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.*

June 14, 2015