

## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

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

\* Please stand if able

PRELUDE *Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory* Robert J. Hughes  
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano,

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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Leader: The world belongs to God.

**People: the earth and all its people.**

Leader: How good it is, how wonderful,

**People: to live together in unity.**

Leader: Love and faith come together,

**People: justice and peace join hands.**

Leader: If Christ's disciples keep silent,

**People: these stones would shout aloud.**

Leader: Open our lips, O, God,

**People: and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

\* HYMN *In Christ There Is No East or West* No. 439

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Please be seated.) Elder

Leader: Holy God, maker of all,

**People: have mercy upon us.**

Leader: Jesus Christ, servant of the poor,

**People: have mercy upon us.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, Breath of life,

**People: have mercy upon us.**

Leader: Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty. (Silence)

Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:

To the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**People: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

**Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness:**

**To the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.**

Leader: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,  
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

\* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Tune: No. 322

***Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;***

***Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.***

***Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.***

***Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.***

## HEARING THE WORD

EPISTLE READING Colossians 3:9-17 Deacon Reader

Leader: The word of the Lord.

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**People: Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *The Old Rugged Cross*  
Annie Laurie and Terri Gonzales, Violin Arr. Kristin Campbell

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 Community* Laura Sugg

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**The diversity in the early church caused tension and conflict.**

**Yet the Spirit bound them into one body, enriched by their differences.**

**We know that the same Spirit gives us a unity  
we cannot create or destroy.**

**The Spirit moves among us, not to end diversity or compel uniformity,  
but to overcome divisiveness and bitterness.**

**The Spirit leads us to struggle against the lines of race and class,  
the ambitions of competing parties, the loyalties to individuals  
and traditions, that divide us.**

**The Spirit impels us to make the unity of Christians  
visible to a divided world, and assures us that we shall be one. 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..."*)

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

