

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

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

* Please stand if able Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

PRELUDE *Awake! The Dawn Rejoices* Steven Scott

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

We are not our own;

**so neither our will nor our wisdom should
get in the way of God's hopes for us.**

We are not our own;

**so we should not choose what is easiest,
or the most gratifying way to live.**

We are not our own, we are God's:

so let us chose to live for God, and serve all of God's children.

We are not on our own, as we walk the streets of God's kingdom:

so, as far as possible, we will forget ourselves and follow Jesus Christ.

* HYMN *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* No.288

CALL TO PRAYER AND PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

We all make mistakes, many of them. We hurt ourselves; we hurt others;
we hurt God with our words and deeds, with our silence and inaction.

Let us confess to God, trusting in the One who blesses us with mercy.

Let us pray...

Spring of Wisdom,

we confess that we have not denied ourselves and followed.

**We turn our backs on your outstretched hands of grace,
and stumble into the arms of the world.**

**We speak poisonous gossip about others,
rather than tell of their glory as your child.**

**We fire off words that find no rest
until they pierce another's heart.**

Forgive us, Rock and Redeemer.

**Give us speech which flows like cool water
through another's parched spirit;**

give us silence with which to witness your wonders;

give us words to proclaim Jesus is the Christ,

our Lord and our Savior, the One who leads us to life.

(A time for silent prayer.)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. With gentleness, God speaks to us;

with graciousness, God forgives us; with joy, God embraces us.

**With our lips, we praise God; with our words we thank God;
with our silence, we find God in our hearts.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Glory to God...* (See insert)

HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Proverbs 1:20-33 pgs. 596-597

The word of the Lord.

Deacon

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *God's Gonna Set This World on Fire* Arr. Moses Hogan

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 *Wisdom: Shouting in the Streets* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison) Elder

In sovereign love God created the world good

and makes everyone equally in God's image,

male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,

we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,

accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,

and threaten death to the planet entrusted in our care.

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

In everlasting love the God of Abraham and Sarah

chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth.

Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel

from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,

like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,

God is faithful still. Amen.

*HYMN *Be Thou My Vision* No. 339

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Sing Aloud to God* Robert J. Hughes

* 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

**God of justice and mercy,
we thank you for the voice of your creation,
for the movement of your Spirit,
for the shouts of prophets
and for the gift of yourself in Christ.
We dedicate our whole selves to you.
Equip us to follow with joy. Amen.**

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

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Tune: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

***May the grace of Christ our Savior Thus may we abide in union
The Creator's boundless love; With each other and the Lord,
And the Holy Spirit's favor, And possess in sweet communion,
Rest upon us from above. Joys which earth cannot afford.***

POSTLUDE *On Our Way Rejoicing* Arr. Lani Smith

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.



*"Sophia strides into the Book of Proverbs
with a noisy public appearance (1:20-33).
She is a street preacher, a prophet who cries
aloud in the market and at the city gates
a message of reproach, punishment,
and promise."*

— Elizabeth A. Johnson

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.*

September 13, 2015