

**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 *Hymn of Thanksgiving* Arr. Martha Powell Satchell  
Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;  
lift up a song to God who rides upon the clouds.

**God's name is the Lord— let us exult our God!**

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.

**Our God is a God of salvation – let us praise our God!**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord.

**Awesome is God in God's sanctuary – let us worship our King!**

\* HYMN *Let All Things Now Living* No. 554  
(Bring forward fruits and vegetables to the Communion Table)

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

Let us pray...

**Jesus, as we silence our hearts  
and humble our spirits in this time of prayer,  
we confess that we sing praises to you as King of Kings  
on Sunday, but the rest of the week we fail to follow you.**

**Our sin creeps back in and we sin again.**

**You told Peter that we should forgive 7 times 70.**

**We have surpassed that number of forgiveness requests,  
but here we are again. In your mercy and grace, reach out your  
hand with the power of your forgiveness and touch us.**

**Cleanse us. Heal us. Forgive us. Forgive us as the body of Christ  
for the sins we commit.**

**Now, please listen to our hearts  
as we confess silently our individual sins.**

*(A time for silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Mark Hutton

Family of Christ, our King and Lord Jesus, emptied himself because he loves us.  
He loves us even when we sin. He loves us and indeed reaches out his hand to  
wipe clean the sins from our lives. Believe in the Good News . . . The Great  
News! Through Jesus the Christ we are forgiven!

**Alleluia, Alleluia, ALLELUIA and AMEN!**

\* SUNG RESPONSE *Gloria Patri* No. 579

**HEARING THE WORD**

GOSPEL READING John 18:33-37 Pg.107

The word of the Lord. Deacon

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven* Arr. Dave and Jean Perry

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 *God's Tangible Kingdom* Mark Hutton

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**We believe in...**

**Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ,  
such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven  
and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in  
the image of the kingdom.**

**The kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the  
divine will and disrupts God's creation.**

**Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring  
hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate  
judgment and redemption.**

**With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to  
present tasks and strives for a better world.**

**It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on  
earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat.  
In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement  
to the final triumph of God.**

—from *The Confession of 1967* (9.54-9.55)

