

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 *Joy To The World* Arr. Alfred V. Fredak

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) From Psalm 148

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

Elder

Stand up, a new day is dawning,

A new year is born,

Fresh and clean.

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

Emmanuel, God is with us

On every path we take,

No matter where we go.

Arise, shine, for your light has come,

And the stars still shine

Where Christ is present

and voices sing in praise!

* HYMN *It Came Upon That Midnight Clear* No. 38

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

Loving Jesus, compassionate friend and gentle guide,
you meet us in all the seasons of life.

In darkness and in light, in joy and sorrow, you walk with us.

We get scared of the darkness of the unknown.

**We question how will we know your voice,
we make excuses of things we have to do or skills we lack.**

**We look for the grand task,
and you give us the common work of loving
and caring for those near at hand.**

**We are afraid you may not be there
and you assure us you are everywhere.**

(A time for silent prayer)

Loving Jesus, gentle friend and compassionate teacher,
take us by the hand and lead us into your future,
assured of your presence and encouragement.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

The Rev. Dr. Dee Cooper

God's light is gracious and brings insight and renewal, hope and blessing.

The light of Christ restores our courage and God's Spirit makes us light for others.

Friends, hear the good news, we are loved and blessed!

Thanks be to God!

*GLORIA Tune: Gloria No. 23

Come to Bethlehem and see: Him whose birth the angels sing

Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord the newborn King.

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo; glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

HEARING THE WORD

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12 Pgs. 1-2

The word of the Lord.

Deacon

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *The Angel's Song* Mary Kay Beall

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 ***Recalculating: Stepping into the Unknown*** Dee Cooper

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand)

We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn; Elder
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over the barbed wire.
being born in human likeness.

**We believe in a with-us God
who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.**

**We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place:
Into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line;
to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge; to choose life and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope. Amen.**

—An Act of Commitment Service from the Iona Abbey Book of Worship

PASTORAL PRAYER Elder

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Improvisation On "Greensleeves"* Arr. Alfred V. Fredak

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING No. 53 Verse 3

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come one and all to own Him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Dee Cooper

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Dee Cooper

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER

Friends these are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Let us keep the feast!

SERVING COMMUNION

Bread is taken individually. Juice/wine is taken together, wine is in outer rings of tray.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

* HYMN *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* No.50

* CHARGE & BLESSING

May we now go out into the world,
sharing the light and love of Jesus Christ.
May God's Spirit keep us focused on the light
that shines brightly with hope and abundance.
May we be nourished in God's light,
so that we will be a guide and blessing to all we meet.
And now go in Peace! **Amen!**

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (sing twice)

**Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* Arr. Wilbur Held

Please come through 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.*

*Second Sunday after Christmas
January 3, 2016*