

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 *Bless His Holy Name* Andrae Crouch
Arr. Lyndell Leatherman

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder
Our faith and hope are in the Lord.
God is our refuge and our rock.
Now faith, hope, and love abide;
and the love of God will never end.
Let us worship God. Amen.

* HYMN *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* No. 464

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

Let us pray ...

God our Redeemer,
we confess that our lives do not reflect your glory.
You are loving, patient, and kind;
we are envious, boastful, and arrogant.
You rejoice in the truth;
we revel in our wrongdoing.
Forgive us, God of grace.
Put an end to our selfish ways and teach us
to love one another as you have loved us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. If we are in Christ, we are a new people altogether;
the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.

In your great mercy, O God,
raise us from the death of sin to newness of life
and make us your people, unburdened by the past,
unfearful of the future, and joyful in the eternal present,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* SUNG RESPONSE *Glory to God* (see insert)

HEARING THE WORD

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Pgs. 166-167
The word of the Lord. Deacon
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *'Tis Winter Now, the Fallen Snow* Arr. John T. Burke

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.
(Children may stay up front for the baptism and move to Kids' Kingdom or back to their families afterward.)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Theodore Bennett Griess
son of Todd Griess & Alicia Reeder-Griess and brother of Constance

SERMON *Above All, Love* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand)
We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
lives that recognize all people in all cultures
as our neighbors on this planet.
Christ teaches us
to go beyond legal requirements
in serving and helping our neighbor,
to treat our neighbor's needs as our own,
to care passionately for the other's good,
to share what we have.
We are obligated to speak the truth in love,
to listen with patience and openness,
to love our enemies,
to accept the risk and pain
which love involves. Amen.

—from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

*HYMN *Though I May Speak* No. 335

