

Easter Sunday

March 27, 2016

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

The Holy City
Organ/Piano Duet Betty Niquette, Piano

Stephen Adams

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand)

Elder

Rejoice and be glad:

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Rejoice and be glad:

Heaven and earth will never be the same!

Rejoice and be glad:

Christ has risen! Alleluia!

Let none hold back joy at the good news of this day,

for Christ has triumphed over sin and death.

Rejoice and be glad: Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

* HYMN

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

No. 123

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated)

Elder

Let us pray ...

God of endless possibility,

**we confess that we do not always perceive
the opportunities you place before us.**

**Caught up in our own hopes, plans, and fantasies,
and crushed when they disappoint us,**

we are slow to see the open pathways you set before us.

**Open our eyes that we may accept the new life you offer us,
and thus show forth the resurrection of Jesus Christ.,**

(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

No. 123

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al-le-lu-ia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Al-le-lu-ia!

Who endured the cross and grave, Al-le-lu-ia!

Sinners to redeem and save. Al-le-lu-ia!

HEARING THE WORD

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:1-12

Pgs. 84-85

This is the Word of Faith

Deacon

that we proclaim.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Great Day! The Lord is Risen!

Joseph M. Martin

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

A Matter of Life and Death

Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand)

Elder

In life and death we belong to God.

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God; preaching good news to the poor,
and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed
and blessing the children, healing the sick,
and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts,
forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe in the gospel.**

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition,

**Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain
and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil,

delivering us from death to life eternal. Amen.

—from *A Brief Statement of Faith* (1991)

*HYMN

The Day of Resurrection

No. 118

