

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 *How Majestic Is Your Name* Michael Smith
Arr. Mark Hayes

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

What does this worship service need?

**Quiet where faith can grow,
song that blossoms hope, a scripture that remembers love,
honest words to untangle a small length of knotty existence,
gifts offering service of the heart.**

Who shall come to this worship service?

**All who have prayer in the center of their lives
and who are lonely for the touch of God.**

Brothers and sisters, praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

* HYMN *For the Beauty of the Earth* (see insert)

CALL TO PRAYER & PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Please be seated) Elder

God asks us to remember the promise: that God will be with us and work in us. Come before God now, ready to be a part of all that is good. Let go of what keeps you from God's powerful call. Let us pray...

**Loving God, in the week that is past,
we each have let go of the rope of our very good intentions,
averted our eyes from the sorrow or pain of someone else,
failed to renew our own physical, emotional, and spiritual resources,
made a decision without the guidance of prayer.**

**We have excused these small sins without regard to the consequences
of all our actions in the world.**

Forgive us, and make us newly self-aware.

Plant a bothersome conscience in the middle of our lives.

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. God offers forgiveness instead of excuses.

Forgiven, we are strengthened to live as children of God. Amen.

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

**Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory in the High-est
Glory to God, Glory to God, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia**

HEARING THE WORD

GOSPEL READING Luke 22:14-16, 19-20 (see announcements)
The word of the Lord. Deacon Reader

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Ancient Words* Michael W. Smith
Singers: Bobbi Cress and Kevin Crowe

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 1-3, selected verses Laura

TIME WITH CHILDREN Tune STF 2233

(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 ***Skeptics Welcome: Talking Snakes and Cannibalism?*** Laura Sugg
(How is the Bible True?)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**Relying on the Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes and hearts,
we affirm our freedom to interpret Scripture responsibly.**

**God has chosen to address the inspired Word to us
through diverse and varied human writings.**

**Therefore we use the best available methods
to understand them in their historical and cultural settings
and the literary forms in which they are cast.**

**When we encounter apparent tensions and conflicts
in what Scripture teaches us to believe and do,
the final appeal must be to the authority of Christ.**

**Acknowledging that authority,
comparing Scripture with Scripture,
listening with respect to fellow-believers past and present,
we anticipate that the Holy Spirit
will enable us to interpret faithfully
God's Word for our time and place.**

--from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

* HYMN *Break Thou the Bread of Life* (see insert)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread;
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Here I Am, Lord* Dan Schutte
Arr. Mark Hayes

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING *Praise God from Whom All...* Tune: All Creatures of Our God and King
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Al-le-lu-ia, (2x)
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Cr-e-ator, Word, and Spir-it one. Al-le-lu-ia, (5x)***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) Laura Sugg
**Bless O God, the money in this offering plate
that it may touch the lives of many,
and bless as well the money that remains in our pockets
that our choices may be careful, faithful, and wise.
As we pay for gasoline or groceries or gifts
may we remember your love that sustains us at all times. Amen.**

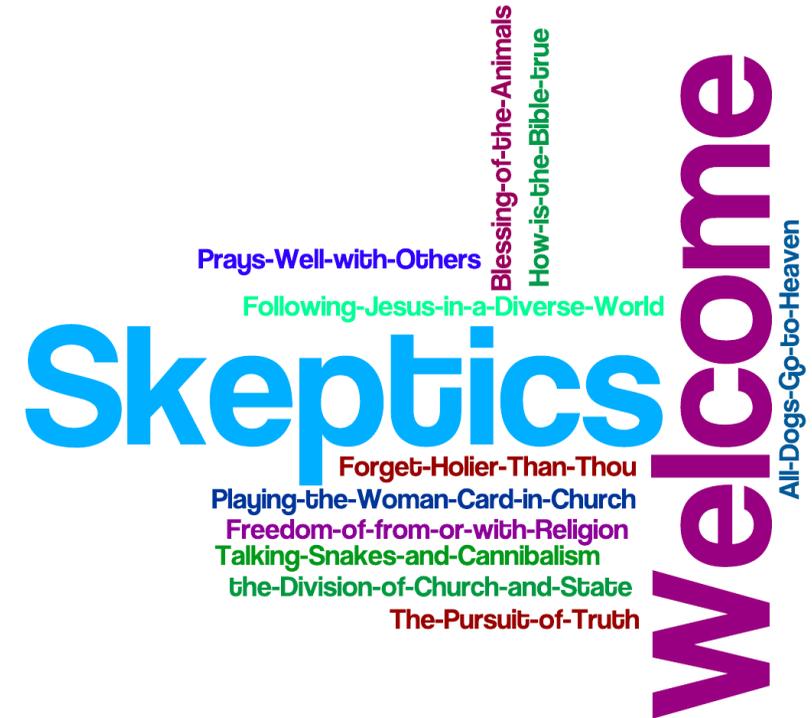
* HYMN *Deep in the Shadows of the Past* (see insert)
(Kevin Crowe sings verse 1, congregation joins for verses 2-4)

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth* (see insert)

POSTLUDE *Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho* Arr. Mark Hayes

Please come to Fellowship Hall for refreshments 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.*

July 24, 2016