

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 *Praise God in His Holy Temple* Steven Scott

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

We gather in the presence of God:

**who knows us when we wake up
and when we go to sleep,
and in all the moments in between.**

We gather in the house of God:

**who has created a family for us,
here as well as in Baghdad, in Belfast, and in Nairobi.**

We gather to be the people of God:

who appeals to us to follow in love, in faith, in service. Amen.

* HYMN *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* No. 411

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

Our sins are not to be hidden from God. Rather, we bring them into the Light and lay them on the Table, trusting in the One who shaped us for goodness and will transform our brokenness into wholeness. Please join me as we pray, saying,

**Searching God, we are so attached to our possessions,
we have trouble sharing them.**

**We are so connected to our pleasures
that we cannot feel the pain of those around us.**

**We are so stuck on ourselves,
we cannot sense our souls slipping away into the shadows.**

**Most merciful God: loosen us from the grip of the world,
so we may feel your healing touch.**

Sever us from our sin, so your Spirit might bind us to you.

**Reshape us, redeem us, renew us,
so we may take up our crosses**

and follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. The God who calls us is the God who created us; the God who formed us is the God who forgives us. This is the Good News - we are God's new creation.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are reshaped, renewed, forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

* SUNG RESPONSE *Glory to God Whose Goodness...* (see insert)

1. **Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has par-doned me,
and to the Spir-it, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the be-gin-ning,
is now and ev-er shall be. A-men.**

2. **World without end, without end. A-men.
World without end, without end. A-men.
World without end, without end. A-men.
As it was in the be-gin-ning,
is now and ev-er shall be. A-men.**

HEARING THE WORD

GOSPEL READING Luke 14:25-33 Pg. 73
The word of the Lord. Deacon Reader

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *We All Believe* Robert J. Weaver

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 *What Disciples Do: Disciples Take Faith Seriously* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom.**

**Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey
all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful.**

**No more than Christ are we spared
the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world.**

We are in the world, but not of the world.

**Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people
do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world,
but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom.**

**Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom:
to serve as he has served us;**

**to take up our cross,
risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;**

**to walk by faith, not by sight,
to hope for what we have not seen. Amen.**

--from A Declaration of Faith (1977)

* HYMN *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* No. 84

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER
(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *If With All Your Hearts* Felix Mendelssohn

*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 crea-tures high and low. Al-le-lu-ia, (2x)

Praise God, in Jesus ful-ly known:

Cr-e-ator, Word, and Spir-it one. Al-le-lu-ia, (5x)

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) Laura Sugg

Gracious God, we offer you our gratitude

and we place before you our gifts and promises.

We do now accept the cost of discipleship and celebrate its joys.

We pledge to live in covenant with you.

We shall share our faith and enlarge our mission.

We shall resist evil's power and rejoice in your goodness.

We shall seek to live

with our eyes open to the glory of Jesus Christ

with our hearts marked by the saving power of your love.

We pray in the name of Christ, our hope and our salvation. Amen.

* HYMN *Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing* No. 538

You're invited to come forward and place an offering
for local hunger relief and a clinic in Zimbabwe.

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

May the Lord go with you as you leave this place,

May the Lord go with you as you celebrate His grace.

May you be surrounded by His love unbounded,

May the Lord go with you as you leave this place.

POSTLUDE *Harlequinade from "The Water Music"* George Philipp Telemann
Arr. Curt Oliver

Please come to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation!



*I haven't always been a Christian.
I didn't go to religion to make me happy.
I always knew a bottle of port would do that.
If you want a religion to make you really
comfortable, I certainly don't recommend
Christianity.*

— C.S. Lewis

*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.*

September 18, 2016