

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 *Battle Hymn of the Republic* Arr. By Tedd Smith and Don Hustad
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Come to us this day, O God,

Come to us with light.

Speak to us this day, O God,

Speak to us your truth.

Dwell with us this day, O God,

Dwell with us in love. Amen.

* HYMN *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* No. 280

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

Let us pray...

O God, our Creator,

Your kindness has brought us the gift of a new day.

**Help us to leave yesterday and not covet tomorrow,
but to accept the uniqueness of today.**

By your love, celebrated in your Word,

seen in your Son, brought near by your Spirit,

take from us what we need carry no longer,

so that we may be free again to choose to serve you

and to be served by each other.

Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on us.

(A time for silent prayer.)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. Hear the Good News! Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ; and Christ died for us,

Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Friends, believe the Good News.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. 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

PSALM READING Psalm 139:1-18 Pgs. 589-590
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon Reader

SPECIAL MUSIC *The Anchor Holds* Lawrence Chewning & Ray Boltz
Kevin Crowe, tenor Arr. Lari Goss

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 *Beside and Before* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

We believe, O God of all gods,

That you are the eternal God of life,

We believe, O God of all gods,

That you are the eternal God of love.

We believe, O God and Maker of all creation,

That you are the creator of the high heavens,

That you are the creator of the deep seas,

That you are the creator of the stable earth.

We believe, O God of all the peoples,

That you created our souls and set their warp,

That you created our bodies and gave them breath,

That you made us in your own image.

--from the Iona Community in Scotland

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Front of Hymnal p.16

O Christ, kindle in our hearts within a flame of love to our neighbor,
To our foes, to our friends, to our kindred all.

O Christ of the poor and the yearning,

From the humblest thing that lives to the name that is highest of all

Kindle in our hearts within a flame of love.

(Laura will share prayers of intercession...)

We are placing our souls and our bodies

Under your guarding this day and night, O Christ.

O Son of the tears, of the wounds,

Of the piercings, may your cross be shielding all.

Now as God's beloved, we pray as Jesus taught, saying,

Our Father... Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us....

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Fragment from an Etude* Frederic Chopin
Organ/Piano Duet Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Lee Ellis

*OFFERING *Praise God from Whom...* Tune: All Creatures of Our God & King

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Al-le-lu-ia! (2x)
Praise God, in Je-sus fully known:
Cre-a-tor, Word, and Spir-it one. Al-le-lu-ia! (5x)***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Responsive) Laura Sugg

Thanks be to you, O Christ,

**For the many gifts you have bestowed on us,
Each day and night, each sea and land,
Each weather fair, each calm, each wild.**

Each day may we remember your mercy Given so gently and generously.

**Each thing we have received, from you it came;
Each thing we hope, from your love it will come;
Each thing we enjoy, it is of your bounty;
Each thing we ask, comes of your disposing.**

O God, from whom each thing that is, freely flows,

**Grant that no tie over strict, No tie over dear,
May be between ourselves and this world. Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Consecration

Serving Communion

Bread is taken individually. Juice/Wine is taken together. Wine is in the outer rings of tray.

Prayer After Communion Laura Sugg

* HYMN *Christ Beside Me* Sing the Faith No. 2166

* CHARGE & BLESSING

Be the great God between your shoulders to protect you in your going and your coming;

be the Son of Mary near your heart; and be the perfect Spirit upon you pouring. **Amen.**

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

POSTLUDE *Fantasia "On America the Beautiful"* Samuel Ward
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano Arr. Rex Koury



*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 4, 2016

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation!