

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 *Good Christian Men Rejoice* John Innes
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

In the beginning our God created the light.

Morning broke open on the first day.

This God of ours sent the light.

Jesus the Christ came to the world's people.

Morning light opens for everyone.

God's Light illumines our lives

and opens us to worship this day. Amen.

* HYMN *As with Gladness, Men of Old* No. 63

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

Why do we huddle in the shadowed corners of life, rather than running to the Light of life? Why do we love the wrong we do rather than grasping the good news offered to us? As we struggle with such questions, let us speak to God of all we have failed to do, seeking hope and grace as we pray,

We search for your light, Star Caster,

**but too often end up settling
for the dimness of temptation.**

**Our motives for seeking to find Christ are not always pure,
for we expect him to fulfill our desires,
rather than your hopes for us.**

**We want the gifts of wealth, health, success, fulfillment,
rather than those of servanthood,
of compassion, of peace.**

**Forgive us, Shaper of our lives,
that we are so foolish to put our needs ahead of your grace.**

**Help us to be like those wise people of so long ago,
who found hope, instead of a destination; who found grace,
instead of gratitude; who found salvation, instead of a sign.**

**As we journey with your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
fill us with the light of your joy and love.**

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. Grace has been poured into our hearts, love has flooded our souls,
the light of hope shines in us.

**This is the light which has come to all, the light we will carry
and give to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*GLORIA Tune: Gloria No. 23

Come to Bethlehem and see: Him whose birth the angels sing

Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord the newborn King.

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo; glo—ria in excelsis Deo.

HEARING THE WORD

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12 Pgs. 1-2

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Deacon

ANTHEM *The Jesus Gift* Gilbert 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 ***Risky Business*** 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.**

—from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

* HYMN *Once in Royal David's City* No. 49

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY

There's a Song in the Air Arr. Ted Smith & Don Husted
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

No. 53 Verse 3

***So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come one and all to own Him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gathering God, you create us and redeem us;
you call us by name and we are precious in your sight.
This good news overwhelms us with joy.
With gratitude, we give you what we have and who we are.
May these gifts be expressions of your great delight
for your people in all the places of the earth. Amen.**

* HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

No. 66

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (sing twice)

***Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!***

POSTLUDE

Go Tell It on the Mountain Arr. Fred Bock
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Caroline Clovesko

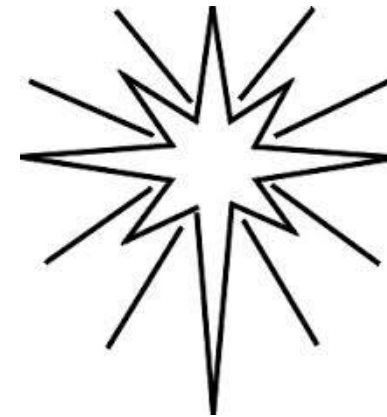
Greeter: Jeff Stimson

Sound Engineer: Sean Mestdagh

Deacon Reader: Betty Piperato

Ushers: Jeff Stimson and Chris Swanson

Children's Time: Linda Valo



*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.*

*Epiphany
January 8, 2017*