

## 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                              *Sweet Hour of Prayer*                              William Bradbury

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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand)                              Elder

Let us worship God together. Let us sing to the Lord a new song;

A song for and with all creatures of the earth.

**Let us rejoice in what God has created. It is good!**

Let us marvel at the creatures that are wonderful in God's sight.

**Let us extol God's handiwork.**

Lord, help us to wonder and to stand in awe at the richness of the world before us.

Every creature gives you praise.

**Amen.**

\* HYMN                              *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*                              (see insert)

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Please be seated)                              Elder

Let us pray...

**Compassionate God,**

**we too often ignore the cries and suffering of your creatures.**

**Our lives are bound up with other species**

**and we ask your forgiveness for the ways we mistreat your creation.**

**Give us clean hearts and caring hands, O God.**

**Remind us that we too are creatures, interdependent and vulnerable.**

*(A time for silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE                              Laura Sugg

Amen. God declares the creation good. We are among God's creatures, and humbled that God calls on us to till and keep the earth. With hope and inspiration to answer that call, we place our trust in God to show us the way.

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 pardoned 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

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING      Psalm 104      (responsive, see blue insert)

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**      Laura Sugg

SPECIAL MUSIC                              *By the Waters of Babylon*      Brent Dowe & Trevor McNaughton

Barbara Stimson, Don Tolin, Katie Sakanai

GOSPEL READING                              Matthew 6:25-34                              Deacon Reader

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH *(As children & youth come forward, please sing.)*

***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                              *The Lord God Made Them All*                              Laura Sugg

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please stand)                              Elder

**God made human beings along with all the other creatures  
and charged them to care for the earth  
and all that live on it.**

**We acknowledge we share in the interdependence  
that binds together all God's creation.**

**Yet God gives us power to rule and tame,  
to order and reshape the world.**

**We hold the earth in trust  
for future generations of living things.**

**The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth.**

**The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce  
in ways that make earth's goodness available to all people  
and reflect God's love for all creatures.**

**The Lord bids us use our technical skills  
for beauty, order, health, and peace.**

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

\* HYMN                              *All Things Bright and Beautiful*                              (see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

In lament for what we have done, and what we've failed to do, for endangered species that are struggling to survive: We pray for creatures that have been endangered for the sake of profit, for creatures killed by environmental disaster wrought by human carelessness, and for animals that have lost their habitat.

**God, hear our prayers.**

With concern for animals that suffer in unhealthy environments, for animals neglected and ill-treated, for animals inhumanely raised in factory farms, for homeless animals that face euthanasia.

**God, hear our prayers.**

We acknowledge the beauty of God's diverse and wondrous creatures and that God made them all in wisdom.

**God, hear our prayers.**

In gratitude for service animals that offer protection and for pets that bring us comfort,

**God, hear our prayers.**

BLESSING OF ANIMALS CEREMONY

(see blue insert)

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Laura Sugg

OFFERTORY

*Pachelbel Canon*

Johann Pachelbel

\*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

Laura Sugg

\* HYMN

*Let All Things Now Living*

(see insert)

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* SUNG RESPONSE

*The Trees of the Field*

from Isaiah 55:12

***You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;*** (see insert)

***The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;***

***there'll be shouts of joy and all the trees of the field will clap,***

***will clap their hands.***

***And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,***

***the trees of the field will clap their hands,***

***the trees of the field will clap their hands***

***while you go out with joy.***

POSTLUDE

*We Have This Hope*

Wayne Hooper

*Please come to Fellowship Hall for the "Dog Days of Summer" Picnic! All are invited!*



*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.*

***Blessing of the Animals Service  
August 20, 2017***