

## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

\* *Please stand as you are able* Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

PRELUDE *O, How He Loves You and Me/ I Love Thee* Arr. Barry Braman  
Ridge Ringers

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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder  
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, Lamentations 3:22-24  
**God's mercies never come to an end;**  
they are new every morning;  
**great is your faithfulness.**  
"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,  
**"therefore, I will hope in God."**  
Sisters and brothers, praise the Lord!  
**The Lord's name be praised!**

\* HYMN *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* No. 262

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder  
Let us pray,  
**Holy God, we do not understand why you keep on loving us.**  
**We hurt our loved ones.**  
**We turn our backs on need.**  
**We seek revenge for petty wrongs in petty ways.**  
**We do not understand why you keep on loving us.**  
**Yet even as we speak these words,**  
**we know your presence and your love.**  
**We are sorry, O God, for we know that sins against one another**  
**are sins against you.**  
**Make us strong and tender, we pray,**  
**that we may live more as you would have us live.**

*(A time for silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg  
Amen. Hear now the words of Jesus for all who are truly sorry and seek to  
renew their lives: Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace; come and follow me.  
**Lead us now, O God, to acknowledge your costly generosity**  
**by living as forgiven people, until heaven and earth rejoice**  
**and the whole earth cries, Glory! Amen.**

\* SUNG RESPONSE (Stand as desired.) No. 481 v 3

***Praise the Lord, great mercies trace, Alleluia!***  
***Praise this providence and grace, Alleluia!***  
***All that God for us has done, Alleluia!***  
***All God sends us through the Son. Alleluia!***

## HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Lamentations 3:17-24 Pgs. 787-788  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Laura

ANTHEM *Bless the Lord* Taizé, Jacques Berthier

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 *Steadfast and New* Laura Sugg

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Elder  
**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us**  
**personal lives that are centered in God**  
**and open to God's reality and rule.**  
**Christ teaches us to put obedience to God**  
**above the interests of self, family, race or nation;**  
**to offer God joyously our money, ability and time.**  
**Life in God's presence issues in life for others,**  
**for if we do not love sisters and brothers whom we see,**  
**we cannot love God whom we do not see.**  
*--from A Declaration of Faith (1977)*

\* HYMN *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* No. 316

\* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16  
*(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")*

CHOIRCHIMES DEDICATION

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Redemption* John C. Dare  
Ridge Ringers

\* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING Tune: Faithfulness GTG No. 276

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) Laura

**O God, through the offering of these gifts  
may we become a more open people...  
open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom,  
open-hearted in healing a broken world,  
open-handed in heeding your call for charity and enacted love.  
With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance  
and the whole of ourselves. Amen.**

\* HYMN Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining No. 425

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:  
And they'll know we are Christians  
by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

POSTLUDE *Triumphal March* Edvard Grieg  
Organ/Piano duet, Betty Niquette, piano Arr. Clarence Kohlmann

*Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.*

---

Pulpit Elder: Caroline Clovesko Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly  
Greeter: Linda Johnston Usher: Jeff Stimson  
Sound Engineer: Sean Mestdagh Time with Children: Roxanne Foster  
Flowers: Marny Eulberg

---



*Of God's love, we can say two things:  
it is poured out universally for everyone from  
the Pope to the loneliest wino on the planet;  
and secondly, God's love doesn't seek value, it creates value.  
It is not because we have value that we are loved,  
but because we are loved that we have value.  
Our value is a gift, not an achievement.*

—William Sloane Coffin

*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*

**November 12, 2017**