

## 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 *Greensleeves Medley*  
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Gail Leven Pollock

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Like the people who found hope in a manger,

**Christmas Spirit, Holy Spirit, rest on us!**

Like Wise Men traveling to see a new star,

**Christmas Spirit, Holy Spirit, reveal to us!**

Like Scrooge yelling from his bedroom window,

**Christmas Spirit, Holy Spirit, guide us!**

Great, good news-carrying Spirit

**Rest on us as you did on Simeon.**

Illuminating, light-bringing Spirit

**Reveal to us as you did to Anna!**

Holy, Holy, Holy Spirit

**Guide us as you guided the wise long ago, Amen.**

\* HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!* No. 9

CALL TO PRAYER & PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

The Lord requires of us a pure offering, without blemish or spot.

We must be right with God and our neighbor to offer ourselves or our gifts to God.

Let us pray.

**We have grieved your Spirit by our sin.**

**We have not been steadfast in prayer.**

**We have failed to give thanks. We have quenched the Spirit.**

**We have ignored or despised the words of the prophets.**

**We have not abstained from every form of evil.**

**Forgive us, O God.**

**Realign our wills with yours. And fill us with your joy. Amen**

*(A time for silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Certified Lay Pastor Lyn Hull

Go and take God's Good News to others:

to those held captive by sin; to those cradling broken hearts;

to those grieving lost relationships. God forgives us all and makes us new.

**Even as we rejoice in God's mercy, we will tell everyone we meet, "God has done such wondrous things for us, and wants to do the same for you!"**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE (Stand as desired.)

Tune: Bring a Torch

***Love has come: a light in darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.***

***See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:***

***Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior! Love, love, glory to God on High***

## HEARING THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 2:22-40 Pgs.55-56

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. Deacon

**Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *He Shall Feed His Flock* G. F. Handel

Katie Sakanai, mezzo-soprano

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 *Building Bridges* Lyn Hull, CLP

***Galatians 4:4-7***

*"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' so you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God."*

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – from Gamass-Holmes Elder

**We are God's.**

**We belong to The One who creates all things,**

**in whose image all people are made.**

**We are Christ's.**

**He has loved us, healed us, called us and anointed us with his Spirit.**

**We belong to his death and resurrection and ministry.**

**We are the Spirit's.**

**We belong to the church, the Body of Christ.**

**God gives us the gifts of forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life, and the**

**gift of participating in the healing of the world by God's grace.**

**As God's beloved, we devote ourselves to God**

**and to God's will, wholly, joyfully and with the help of Christ. Amen.**

\* HYMN (seated) *In the Bleak Midwinter/What Child is This?* No.36 vv. 1 & 4/No. 53

