

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 *Bring a Torch* Christopher Uehlein

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

We gather wondering,

'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

**We will find the Babe in the laughter of children,
in the wisdom of grandparents.**

We gather asking,

'where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

**We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope,
where the oppressed are set free.**

We gather wanting to know,

'where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

**We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.**

Sisters and brothers, praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised!

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

CALL TO PRAYER & 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 together, saying...

Star Caster, we search for your light but too often end up settling for the dimness of temptation. Our motives for seeking 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

Up, on your feet! 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.**

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

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

ANTHEM *Over My Head* Traditional African-American Spiritual
Arr. John Bell

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:4-11 Pgs. 32-33
And the Word became flesh and lived among us. Laura Sugg
Thanks be to God.

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 Reveal* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) The Apostle's Creed (Traditional)
Front of Hymnal Pg. 14 Elder

* PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16
(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Open My Eyes That I May See* Clara Scott

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING (Verse 4, No. 22)

**All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Ever more your voices raising, to th' eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Laura Sugg

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE
GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

People of Advent: the Lord be with you!

And also with you!

People of Christmas, lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts overwhelmed with grace
to the One who was born for us.**

People of the Star, offer your songs of joy and
thanksgiving to God.

**We will sing our praises to the One who has
revealed glory and hope in the Babe of Bethlehem.**

In that first moment, you spoke, Radiant God,
and the light of creation....

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
SERVING COMMUNION

*Bread is taken individually. **Wait** to take juice/wine together.*

Red wine is in outer ring of tray; white grape juice is in the inner ring of tray.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

* HYMN *What Star Is This, with Beams so Bright* No. 68

* CHARGE & BENECTION

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *Joy to the World!* (Verse 4 No. 40)

***He rules the world with truth and grace. And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.***

POSTLUDE *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* Arr. Gordon Young

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Bob Brown Deacon Reader: Betty Piperato
Greeter: Betty Niquette Ushers: Kerry Gardner & Chuck Miller
Sound Engineer Jim Niquette Time With Children & Youth: Roxanne Foster
Communion Servers: Anne Baker, Brenda Cavanaugh, Lori Golightly, Charlene Pierce
Flowers: The Sovold family



*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.*

January 7, 2018