

### 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 *Day by Day* Oscar Ahnfelt  
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Ron & Linda Sprunger

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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) from Isaiah 40  
Elder

Come, all who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,  
For the Lord will give you rest.

**The Lord is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in times of trouble.**

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

**They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.**

God consoles us in all our affliction,  
so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction.

**For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us,  
so also our healing is abundant through Christ.**

Sisters and brothers, praise the Lord!

**The Lord's name be praised!**

\* HYMN *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* No. 466

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated, unison) Elder

Let us pray...

**Merciful God, we come to you  
not because we have it all together,  
but because we are not perfect.**

**We want to be more like your Son,  
who lived his whole life in love.**

**Our love is most often reserved for those who are close to us  
and those who love us in return.**

**Our forgiveness is most often conditional.  
Fairness is more important to us than grace.**

**We cannot live up to the way Jesus leads us.**

**Forgive us, and make us more like Christ  
in all we say and do.**

*(A time for silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. If we are in Christ, we are new people altogether;  
the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.

**In your great mercy, O God,  
raise us from the death of sin to newness of life,  
and make us your people, unburdened by the past,  
unfearful of the future, and joyful in the eternal present,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 Mark 1:29-39 Pg. 33  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon

ANTHEM *Come, Dearest Lord, Descend and Dwell* Sharon Elery Rogers

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 *Secrets, Secrets, Secrets* Laura Sugg

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please stand) Elder

**We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,  
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst  
to share our humanity.**

**We affirm a faith that takes us beyond the safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability and into the streets.**

**We commit ourselves  
to work for change and put ourselves on the line;  
to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;  
to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the spirit  
for God's new community of hope. Amen.**

—from the Iona Community, Scotland

\* PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Steal Away* Traditional Spiritual  
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Lani Smith

\* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING (Verse 3, No. 53)  
***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 is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!***

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION Laura Sugg

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Laura Sugg

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 (in unison) Laura

**Gracious God,**

**you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.**

**You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service.**

**Help us who have shared Christ's body and received his cup,**

**to be his faithful disciples so that our daily living**

**may be part of the life of your kingdom,**

**and our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

\* HYMN *There Is a Balm in Gilead* No. 394

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE No. 66 (refrain only)

***O—o star of wonder, star of night Star with royal beauty bright;***

***Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!***

POSTLUDE *Grand March From "Stabat Mater"* Gioacchino Rossini  
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Geoffrey R. Lorenz

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



*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.*

*February 4, 2018*