

### **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 *Processional March* Reginald Martin  
Organ/Piano Duet Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz

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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) *(from Ephesians 2:4-10)*  
Let us worship God who is rich in mercy, Elder  
**Who makes us alive when we are dead,**  
Who gives new life out of great love for us:  
**Let us worship God.**

\* HYMN *O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer* No. 223

CALL TO PRAYER & PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated)  
The path to authentic renewal is through repentance. Elder  
In order to become more like Jesus, we must be willing to let him reveal those aspects of our lives which need to be changed. Let us accept the invitation "Come unto me..." by gratefully, confidently laying our lives before Christ now. Let us pray...

**Loving God, in the week that is past**  
**we each have let go of the rope of our very good intentions,**  
**averted our eyes from the sorrow or pain of someone else,**  
**failed to renew our own physical, emotional, and spiritual resources,**  
**made a decision without the guidance of prayer.**

**We have excused these small sins**  
**without regard to the consequences of all our actions in the world.**  
**Forgive us and make us newly self-aware.**  
**Plant a bothersome conscience in the middle of our lives.**

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE  
Amen. God offers forgiveness instead of excuses and, forgiven,  
we are strengthened to live as children of God. Thanks be to God.  
**Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE (Stand as desired.) *How Great Thou Art* No. 467 refrain  
***Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,***  
***How great Thou art, how great Thou art!***  
***Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee***  
***How great Thou art, how great Thou art!***

### **HEARING THE WORD**

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 2:1-10 Pg. 184  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God** Deacon

ANTHEM *God's Amazing Grace* Arr. Hogan & Nix  
(please join the choir on verse 5 No. 280 "When we've been there...")

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 *Amazing Grace* Laura Sugg

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder  
**God's love frees me to be the person I am without needing**  
**to be more attractive, more intelligent, more popular.**  
**God's love frees me to live in confidence, not self-absorbed,**  
**but ready to listen and to hear the stories of others.**  
**God's love frees me to take risks, to surprise even myself with courage,**  
**sometimes to fall flat on my face— but always to move on,**  
**encouraged by the Spirit.**  
**God's love frees me to view the world not from the standpoint**  
**of wealth gained or ambition achieved, but from the perspective**  
**of relationships lived and human love shared.**  
**God's love frees me to put my sins behind me, to know that**  
**no sin is too great or too small to be left open and healed by**  
**the gentle touch of Christ. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\* HYMN *What Wondrous Love is This* No. 85

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

