

## 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 *Calvary Medley* Arr. Gregg Sewell  
Organ/Piano Duet Betty Niquette, Piano

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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) (from Jeremiah 31)

The hour comes, and now is, says the Lord,  
when I will make a new covenant with my people.

**It shall not be written upon tablets of stone,  
but upon the tablets of the heart.**

We shall no longer instruct our neighbors from a book.  
They shall no longer need any teacher but the Lord.

**Waken our ears, O Lord, and speak to us  
the words of your covenant. Amen.**

\* HYMN *The Glory of These Forty Days* No. 87

CALL TO PRAYER & PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated)

In this season of Lent, let us come before God, confessing our  
past failures, trusting in God's grace to open a new future. Let us pray... Elder

**O Lord of creation,  
we know that unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth  
and dies, it remains a single grain.  
We want to sprout, to grow, to produce an abundant harvest for you.  
Yet we are afraid to fall from our comfort,  
our illusions of control, and our privilege,  
to yield to the transformation you offer.  
Forgive our fear and lead us in your ways  
that we might bear good fruit and  
tend your harvest of justice, kindness, mercy, and love,  
all for the sake of your kingdom.**

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Amen. Friends, believe the good news:  
in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**In the strength of that forgiveness may we more clearly see the truth,  
more bravely face the world, more lovingly serve our neighbor, and  
more joyfully follow Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. 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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 31:31-34 Pg. 755  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon

ANTHEM *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* Adam Waite

PSALTER READING Psalm 51:1-12 Pgs. 527-528  
The Word of the Lord. **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 *In My Heart* Laura Sugg

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**To be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world  
as God's reconciling community.**

**This community, the church universal,  
is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation  
and shares God's labor of healing the enmities which  
separate people from God and from each other.**

**Christ has called the church to this mission  
and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**The church maintains continuity with the apostles  
and with Israel by faithful obedience to this call.**

—Adapted from *the Confession of 1967, 9.31*

\* HYMN *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* No. 372

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP Eileen Gardner

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY

*Arioso* Johann Sebastian Bach  
Organ/Piano Duet Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Linda & Ron Sprunger

\* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING *What Wondrous Love is This* No. 85 verse 2

**To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing;  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
While millions join the theme, I will sing!**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we offer you our gratitude  
and we place before you our gifts and our promises.

**We do now accept the cost of discipleship  
and celebrate its joys.**

**We pledge to live in covenant with you.**

**We shall share our faith and enlarge our mission.**

**We shall resist evil's power and rejoice in your goodness.**

**We shall seek to live**

**with our eyes open to the glory of Jesus Christ**

**and our hearts marked by the saving power of your love.**

**We pray in the name of Christ, our hope and our salvation. Amen.**

\* HYMN

*O Jesus, I Have Promised* No. 388

\* CHARGE & BLESSING

\* SUNG RESPONSE *Take, O Take Me as I Am*  
(sing twice)

**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

CLOSING MUSIC FOR MEDITATION *Since By Man Came Death, (From "Messiah")* George Frederick Handel  
Organ/Piano Duet Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Tedd Smith & Don Hustad

[During this season of Lent, the congregation is invited to be **seated** during  
the **Closing Music** for a short period of meditation.]

*Please come through to Fellowship Hall for the St. Patrick's Day Luncheon!*



## Dust and Rainbows: A Lenten Journey through Song

*"Oh, God of Dust and Rainbows,  
Help us to see  
That without the dust the rainbow  
Would not be."*

*--Langston Hughes*

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.

Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 18, 2018