

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 *Praise to the Lord, The Almighty* Arr. James Mansfield

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Quiet your mind, still your restlessness. Come before God.

**Like a bird that lights on a branch,
we come to the pause of God.**

Warm your heart, stir up your spirit. Come before God.

**Like the flame dancing on a candle's wick,
we come to the dance of God.**

Open your hands, meet the eyes of your neighbors. Come before God.

**Like snowflakes falling in a winter night,
beautiful alone, deep when gathered,
we fall into the presence of God.**

* HYMN *Morning Has Broken* No. 469

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated, unison) Elder

Let us pray...

**O God, you are like a weaver in our lives.
Out of the expanding energy of creation
you have spun each one of us into a unique, colorful strand
with our own special hue and texture;
you have woven us together into a single family that blankets the globe.
We admit that we have rent the fabric of your design.
We have allowed ourselves to be bound
by the narrow contexts of race, age, sex, and ideology.
Open our hearts, so that we may once again
celebrate the wonder of the human fabric and dignity of all.
We pray in the name of Christ, who lived and died "that all may be one."**

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Amen. Neither this world nor your life is so broken
that God cannot restore it to wholeness.

Trust and believe that, after separation, reconciliation is possible.

**God does show us the way home.
In the name of Christ Jesus, we are forgiven. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE (Stand as desired.)

***Thine is the glory Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.***

refrain, No. 122

HEARING THE WORD

PSALM READING Psalm 23 Pg. 507
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon

ANTHEM *For the Beauty of the Earth* Text by F.S. Pierpont
Music by K. Kocher, Arr. K. Davis

GOSPEL READING John 10:11-18 Pg. 98
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 *Green Pastures, Still Waters* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(Please Stand)* Elder

**God made human beings along with all the other creatures
and charged them to care for the earth
and all that lives on it.
We acknowledge we share in the interdependence
that binds together all God's creation.
Yet God gives us power to rule and tame,
to order and reshape the world.
We hold the earth in trust
for future generations of living things.
The Lord forbids us to plunder, foul, and destroy the earth.
The Lord expects us to produce, to consume, to reproduce
in ways that make earth's goodness available to all people
and reflect God's love for all creatures.
The Lord bids us use our technical skills
for beauty, order, health, and peace. Amen.**

From A Declaration of Faith (1977)

* HYMN *All Beautiful the March of Days* No. 292

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

ORDINATION & INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

*Ordination and Installation of Maxine Foster as Elder and Valerie Friedman as Deacon,
Installation of Jo Ann Flores and Ann Ludvigsen as Elders and Nancy Rosi and Jeff
Stimson as Deacons.*

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the Same Spirit who gives them. Laura Sugg

**There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God's purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ...

When invited, please join in the following prayer:

**God of grace, who called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ,
trusting us with the message of reconciliation:
give us courage & discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us;
that together we may declare your wonderful deeds
and show your love to the world;
through Jesus Christ the Lord of all. Amen**

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Lord, I Want to be a Christian* Arr. Diane Bish

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* No. 464

* CHARGE & BENEDECTION

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE refrain, No. 106

***Alleluia, Alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia! Give praise to his name.***

POSTLUDE *Nearer, My God to Thee* Arr. Diane Bish

*Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation,
to celebrate with the new Elders and Deacons, and for the Mission Bake Sale!*



*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.*

***Fourth Sunday of Easter
Earth Day
April 22, 2018***