

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 *Battle Hymn of the Republic* Arr. By Carlos Staszkeski

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) (Drawn from Psalm 33)

Let all the nations of the world fear the Lord; Elder

Let all the people of earth stand in awe.

A king is not saved by his great army;

No warrior is delivered by his great strength.

Blessed is the nation who seeks God as its Lord;

The people who choose God's way as its heritage.

Our souls wait for the Lord, made glad in God;

Because the Lord is our shield, our trust in God alone.

Let us worship God.

* HYMN *Almighty Father, Strong to Save* (see insert) Tune 562

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Please be seated) Elder

Let us pray...

God our Father forever: you led our ancestors to this land, and out of conflict, forged in us a love of peace and liberty.

We thank you for this land so fair and free; for its worthy aims and impulses. We are grateful for the grand mix of people we find here, varied in accents, customs, and beliefs to enrich our national life.

Forgive us when we deny rights or restrict opportunities, when we overlook our wrongs or justify our injustices. Help us to be more compassionate, fair, and respectful with one another and with the others elsewhere who share this world with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE The Rev. Rich Stewart

SUNG RESPONSE (Stand as desired)

**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.

HEARING THE WORD

EPISTLE READING 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Pg. 175
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon

SPECIAL MUSIC *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Trad. Gaelic melody
Wyatt Johnson, tenor Arr. Joseph Martin

OLD TESTAMENT READING 2 Samuel 1:1,17-27 Pgs. 279-280
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 ***Can We Find Strength, and Time, and Grace Enough?*** Rich Stewart

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**The people of God have often misused God's promises
as excuses for doing nothing about present evils.**

**But in Christ the new world has already broken in
and the old can no longer be tolerated.**

We know our efforts cannot bring in God's kingdom.

**But hope plunges us into the struggle
for victories over evil that are possible now
in the world, the church, and our individual lives.**

**Hope gives us courage and energy
to contend against all opposition,
however invincible it may seem,
for the new world and the new humanity
that are surely coming.**

**Jesus is Lord. He was Lord at the Beginning. He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord. Amen.**

From A Declaration of Faith (1977)

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *God Bless America* Irving Berlin

