

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 *Bless His Holy Name* Andraé Crouch Arr. Lyndell Leatherman

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

On this day of worship, we call on God's name,

and hear our own invitation to work for the good of all.

Gathered with neighbors and strangers, we call on God's hope,

and discover that a lifetime of service seems but a few days.

In this place of praise and prayer, we call on God's love,

and receive that grace which is as old as creation,

yet as fresh as each morning.

Let us worship God.

* HYMN *O Word of God Incarnate* No. 327

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Please be seated) Elder

We spend so much time accusing ourselves, judging ourselves, punishing ourselves for what we have done, or not done. But God would draw us closer to the Heart of forgiveness, that we might be filled with healing and grace. Join me, as we pray together,

What then are we to say about our lives, Searcher of our hearts? We know how often we have duped others with our deceit. We remember how often we promise one thing, only to do the opposite. We struggle to trust you, while we so easily listen to the promises of those who would pull us away from you.

Forgive us, Heart overflowing with mercy. Your grace is more powerful than any of our sins, your hope is more durable than our silly choices, your love will traverse anything, and everything, which separates us from you. In Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, we are forgiven!

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Hear the good news: the One who could accuse us, saves us from sin and death.

The One who could condemn us, cradles us in grace.

The One who could punish us, prays for us.

Now we know, there is nothing,

not a thing, that can separate us from God.

Thanks be to the One who forgives us. Amen.

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 53 Pg. 700

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Laura

SPECIAL MUSIC *Thy Word* Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith

Katie Sakanai, voice and piano

GOSPEL READING Mark 8:27-32a Pg. 41

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon

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 *The Gospel According to the Dead Sea Scrolls* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

Led by the Spirit of God the people of Israel and of the early church

preserved and handed on the story

of what God had said and done in their midst

and how they had responded.

These traditions were often shaped and reshaped

by the uses to which the community put them.

They were cherished, written down, and collected

as the holy literature of the people of God.

Relying on the Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes and hearts,

we affirm our freedom to interpret Scripture responsibly.

God has chosen to address this inspired Word to us

through diverse and varied human writings.

Therefore, we use the best available methods

to understand them in their historical and cultural settings

and the literary forms in which they are cast. --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 *I Am Here to Worship* Tim Hughes Arr. Lyndell Leatherman

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING Tune: All Creatures of Our God and King
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, (2x)
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, (5x)*

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God who knows you best be with you!

And also with you!

Worship the One who is with us at this Table,
as well as in our hunger for hope.

How blessed we are to open our hearts to God.

Sing songs of wonder to the One who whispers in your soul.

We praise the One who surrounds us in every moment.

In the shadows of chaos...we lift our voices, to praise you:

Holy, holy, holy, God who knows us completely.

All creation hopes for what is not seen.

**Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes,
bringing peace. Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, God of joy...we speak of that faith we can only call a mystery:

When Christ made his bed in Shē'ōl, God was there;

when Christ rose, God's hand took him into new life;

when Christ returns, God will lead us in the everlasting way.

You search for us...God in community, Holy in One. Amen.

Words of Institution

Serving Communion

Bread and/or gluten-free wafer is taken individually.

*Please **wait to take juice/wine together.** Red wine is in outer ring of tray,
white grape juice is in the middle ring, and water in the center of the tray.*

Prayer after Communion

* HYMN *Break Thou the Bread of Life* No. 329

* CHARGE & BENEDECTION

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Shalom, Chaverim!* No. 537
(sing in Hebrew, then in English)

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Voluntary* John Stanley Arr. Henry Coleman

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.



*The Gospel According to
the Dead Sea Scrolls*

August 5, 2018