

## 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 *Great Is the Lord* Arr. Lyndell Leatherman

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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

We are not our own:

**so, neither our will nor our wisdom  
should get in the way of God's hopes for us.**

We are not on our own:

**so, we should not choose what is easiest  
or the most gratifying way to live.**

We are not our own, we are God's:

**so, let us choose to live for God,  
and serve all of God's children.**

We are not on our own,

as we walk the streets of God's kingdom:

**so, as far as is possible, we will forget ourselves  
and follow Jesus Christ.**

\* HYMN *God Is Here* No. 461

CALL TO PRAYER & PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

We all make mistakes, many of them. We hurt ourselves, we hurt others, we hurt God with our words and deeds, with our silence and inaction. Let us confess to God, trusting in the One who blesses us with mercy.

Let us pray...

**Spring of Wisdom, we confess that we turn our backs on your  
outstretched hands of grace, and stumble into the arms of the  
world. We speak poisonous gossip about others, rather than tell of  
their glory as your child. We fire off words that find no rest until  
they pierce another's heart.**

**Forgive us, Rock and Redeemer. Give us speech which flows like  
cool water through another's parched spirit; give us silence with which  
to witness your wonders; give us words to proclaim Jesus is the Christ,  
our Lord and our Savior, the One who leads us to life.**

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Laura Sugg

Amen. With gentleness, God speaks to us;  
with graciousness, God forgives us;  
with joy, God embraces us.

**With our lips, we praise God;  
with our words, we thank God;  
with our silence, we find God in our hearts.  
Thanks be to God. 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

PSALM READING Psalm 19:1-6, 14 Pg. 504  
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon

ANTHEM *Welcome to Our Church* Words & Arr. Dawn Wooderson

EPISTLE READING James 3:1-12 Pg. 220  
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 *Watch Your Mouth* Laura Sugg

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder  
The Apostles' Creed (traditional) Front of Hymnal Pg. 14

\* HYMN *Though I May Speak* No. 335

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

