

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 *How Majestic Is Your Name* Michael W. Smith
Arr. Lyndell Leatherman

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

What does this worship service need?

**Quiet where faith can grow,
song that blossoms hope, a scripture that remembers love,
honest words to untangle a small length of knotty existence,
gifts offering service of the heart.**

Who shall come to this worship service?

**All who have prayer in the center of their lives
and who are lonely for the touch of God.**

Brothers and sisters, praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

* HYMN *How Firm a Foundation* No. 361

CALL TO PRAYER & PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Please be seated) Elder

God asks us to remember the promise: that God will be with us and work in us. Come before God now, ready to be a part of all that is good. Let go of what keeps you from God's powerful call. Let us pray...

**Loving God, in the week that is past,
we each have let go of the rope of our very good intentions,
averted our eyes from the sorrow or pain of someone else,
failed to renew our own physical, emotional, and spiritual resources,
made a decision without the guidance of prayer.**

**We have excused these small sins
without regard to the consequences of all our actions in the world.
Forgive us, and make us newly self-aware.
Plant a bothersome conscience in the middle of our lives.**

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. God offers forgiveness instead of excuses.

Forgiven, we are strengthened to live as children of God. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE (Stand as desired)

No. 341 v.2 and refrain (
(Blessed Assurance)

HEARING THE WORD

PSALM READING Psalm 71: 14-19, 22-23 Pgs. 540-541
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon

ANTHEM *O, Sing to the Lord* Franklin Ritter

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Pg. 166-167
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 *The Big Picture: The Bible in 11 Stories* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**Relying on the Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes and hearts,
we affirm our freedom to interpret Scripture responsibly.**

**God has chosen to address the 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.**

**When we encounter apparent tensions and conflicts
in what Scripture teaches us to believe and do,
the final appeal must be to the authority of Christ.**

**Acknowledging that authority, comparing Scripture with Scripture,
listening with respect to fellow-believers past and present,
we anticipate that the Holy Spirit
will enable us to interpret faithfully
God's Word for our time and place.**

--from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

* HYMN *Deep in the Shadows* No. 330

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

