

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 *Prelude on a Luther Hymn (with an interval from Praetorious)*
Arr. Gordon Young

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Come, all who thirst. Come to the font!

Dip your soul into the water of life.

Come, all who hunger. Come to the table!

Eat your fill of the bread of life.

Come, all who are weary. Come to worship!

Rest your spirits in the house of God.

Come, all who thirst. Come, all who hunger.

Come, all who are weary.

Come and worship God!

* HYMN *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing* No. 356

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

Nothing can be hidden from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth,
whose wisdom is endless, whose mercy is great.

Trusting in God's grace, let us pray...

God of grace, have mercy upon us.

**Forgive us for shouting over our neighbors,
when your Spirit beckons us to listen.**

**Forgive us for our complacency,
when we are called to be agents of change.**

Forgive us for working, rather than serving.

Forgive us for producing, rather than creating.

**God of grace, have mercy upon us,
and move us into life.**

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Amen. Those who trust in God will renew their strength.

They will run and not be weary, they will walk and not grow faint.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

* SUNG RESPONSE *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* No. 298 v. 2

For the love of God is broader Than the measures of the mind;

And the heart of the Eternal Is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, We would gladly trust God's Word;

And our lives reflect thanksgiving For the goodness of our Lord.

HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 43:1-4 Pg. 687

The Word of the Lord.

Deacon

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *Star Child* Words by Shirley Murray

Music by Carlton Young

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:15-16, 21-22 Pgs. 56-57

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 *Called Beloved* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Elder

God's sovereign love is a mystery

beyond the reach of the human mind.

Human thought ascribes to God

superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness.

But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ

by showing power in the form of a servant,

wisdom in the folly of the cross,

and goodness in receiving sinful men and women.

The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world

discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator

who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

--Adapted from *the Confession of 1967, 9.15*

* HYMN *Baptized in Water* No. 492

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

As people who have passed through the waters of baptism
let us make our grateful offering to God our Redeemer.

Isaiah 43:2

OFFERTORY

Ode To Saint Cecelia

Charles Gounod
Arr. George Blake

* 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 (unison)

**O God,
at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus
as your beloved Son,
and through him you opened to us a way
to become your children by grace.
May these gifts we return to you
be a sign of our dedication to live as your faithful
daughters and sons, born in the waters of baptism
by the power of the Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

* HYMN

We Know that Christ Is Raised

No. 495

* CHARGE & BLESSING

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

May the Lord Go with You

***May the Lord go with you as you leave this place,
May the Lord go with you as you celebrate his grace.
May you be surrounded by his love unbounded,
May the Lord go with you as you leave this place.***

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

Arr. Wilbur Held

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.



*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.*

January 13, 2019