

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 *Come Christians, Join To Sing* Arr. Lani Smith

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

When we are lonely, feeling forsaken, there is One who knows how we feel:

**our God who gathers us up,
pulling us close to the heart of love.**

When we sit at the table of despair, when we nibble at life's stale crusts,
there is One who throws a party for us:

**our God who loves to celebrate,
who fills our lives with goodness.**

When we are mired in the muck of life,
when every day seems the same as yesterday,
there is One who comes to us:

**our God who changes our names,
our God who transforms our lives.**

* HYMN *From All That Dwell Below the Skies* No. 229

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

We plead ignorance, but we know. We know the hurt we have caused, the names we have called other people, the love we hold back from family and friends. Let us confess our shadowed lives, so the light of God's mercy might illumine us. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

If we are to have any hope, Transforming God, we must face the reality of our lives, putting a name to our failings. You hand us a bouquet of gifts, but we let them wither by not placing them in your living water. You call us to speak out for those who live in the corners and cupboards of our world, but we believe our silence is the best way to help them. We listen to those who tell us that to trust in you is a sign of weakness, rather than listening to your invitation to hope in you always.

You will not rest until we are one with you, God of Peace, so, forgive us and fill us with your mercy. Gift us, so we may respond to those opportunities to serve your people. May your Spirit teach us the new language of faith, so we might confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Amen. This is the good news: you are God's delight, you are God's joy, you are God's beloved. God will not remain silent, but will call you by name.

From the farthest corners of heaven to this very place, from God's heart to ours - we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE (remain seated) *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

PSALM READING Psalm 36:5-10 Deacon Pg. 516

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

ANTHEM *Fill Your Hearts with Joy and Gladness* Poem, T. Dudley Smith
Music by Sarah Quartel

GOSPEL READING John 2:1-11 Pg. 87

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 ***Light of the World:
Illumination of New Wine*** 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 *God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us* No. 261

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

INVITATION TO OFFERING *Psalm 36:8, 9*

God is a generous giver of gifts that flow like a river from the fountain of life.
Bring offerings and tributes with thanks and praise; for the gifts we give are the gifts of God.

OFFERTORY *Chorale* Johann Pachelbel

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

Christ, Be Our Light!



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered to - day.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) *John 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 12:7*

At the wedding feast at Cana

**you gladdened the guests with divine generosity,
filled to the brim and flowing over.**

We offer our gifts with grateful hearts.

Bless them and our lives to your service,

**that they may reveal your glory,
nurture faith, and manifest the common good.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

* HYMN *I've Got Peace Like a River* No. 368

* CHARGE & BLESSING

* SUNG RESPONSE *We Are Marching in the Light of God* STF No.2235-b

POSTLUDE *A New England Memory* Michael Shea

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.*

*Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 20, 2019*