

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 *Chanson* Gordon Young

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Whether we live in an apartment or a house; if we reside in the suburbs or the city:

God tells us to pray for the places where we live.

Whether we are exiles or prisoners for the gospel;
if we are young, old, insider, outcast:

God says, 'when you search for me, you will find me.'

Whether we have been wandering and lost;
or if we have lived in the same town all our lives:

God says, 'I will gather you from all your places and bring you home.'

* HYMN *God is Here!* No. 461

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

Despite our foolish and angry words, God continues to speak of mercy to us. Despite our best efforts to be faithful in our living, God remains faithful in keeping the promise to forgive us and restore us to wholeness. Let us confess to God, so that God's hope and grace might endure in our brokenness.

God beyond borders, we know that on our way to worship, we may not have noticed the exiles in our neighborhoods. We admit how easy it is for us to wander down the streets of temptation, pausing at the corner of easy choices. We fall silent in the presence of those who speak words of anger and hate. We tolerate a culture that suspects all who are different from us.

Have mercy on us, O God, for surely you take the side of justice. Open our hearts to all the wonders you are performing in our lives. You gift us with those of other cultures, that our lives might be blessed. You send us friends out of places we least expect, that our community might be enriched. You call us to be generous with our blessings, so others might be graced with the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. God challenges us, God encourages us. God confronts us, and God accepts us. God works wonders in our midst and gives us the eyes, the hearts, the souls to see such miracles.

God forgives us, God welcomes us back home after exile.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE (Stand as desired) (Blessed Assurance) No. 341 v.2 and refrain

Perfect submission, perfect delight. Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels, descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

HEARING THE WORD

PSALM READING Psalm 137: 1-8 Pg. 588
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon

ANTHEM *Shall We Gather at the River?* Robert Lowry
Arr. Harold DeCou

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

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 (5)*** Laura Sugg
We are Exiled and Return Home

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**The Lord's care sustained the people of Israel.
God gave them a land where they could celebrate God's goodness.
The Lord established their kingdom and
promised a ruler from the line of David to reign in justice and peace.
When God's people worshipped the gods of the land,
when they put their trust in military alliances,
when they failed to do justice and oppressed the poor,
God sent the prophets to condemn their sins
and to call the people back to obedience.
There were times of repentance and reform,
but in the end their kingdoms fell.**

**We declare God's goodness and justice.
When we forget the Lord and worship our possessions,
when we fail to deal justly with the poor,
when we seek security no matter what it costs others,
we can expect God's judgment upon us.**

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

* HYMN *By the Waters of Babylon* No. 245

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Hymn Arrangement* by Mark Hayes
Kenny Orr, piano

* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING *Doxology* No. 591/2

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Serving Communion

*Bread 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 *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* No. 263

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE STF No.2241 v.1 & 4

**1. The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name
To bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.**

**4. Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.**

POSTLUDE *Cortège* Gordon Young

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

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Choir Director: *Katie Sakanai, M.M.Ed.*

Treasurer: *Eileen Gardner, C.P.A.* • Assistant Treasurer: *Betsy Smith*

Administrative Assistant: *Jenny Garner*



*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.*

November 4, 2018