

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 *Sanctus* Charles F. Gounod
Arr. Ellen Jane Lorenz

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder
We gather in this place to worship our God:
**calm Presence in our times of confusion,
Comforter in our nights of struggle.**
We gather with fellow pilgrims, as we seek to follow Jesus:
**Brother to those swamped by fears,
Friend to all overwhelmed by loss.**
We are brought together by the Spirit who lives in the depths of our souls:
**the Serenity who travels with us
on this up-and-down journey we call life.**

* HYMN *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* No. 281 (see insert)

CALL TO PRAYER & PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder
We let fears control us, we let doubt become the way of life for us. If we but look, we will see our lives, and our world, cradled in God's loving hands. Let us confess our lack of faith, even as we trust the One who has promised to listen to our words, as well as our hearts. Join me as we confess together, saying...

They can be such giants in our lives, God of Grace. Each day, our fears, our doubts, our worries wash over us, until we come to believe that you do not care for us. There seems to be so much wrong in the world, we are convinced that there is nothing good we can do. The storms of sin and temptation batter at us, and we cower, unable to find the faith to withstand them.

Forgive us, God of Hope. Remind us that if we but open our hearts, you will heal us. If we but listen to your words, we will hear peace and joy. If we but open our lives to you, we can go forth to serve our sisters and brothers, even as we have been served by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg
Amen. With calming words, with a peaceful Spirit, with overflowing love and hope, our God forgives us and fills us with faith.

**Our God affirms us for who we are:
those whose brokenness is made whole,
whose sin is forgiven, whose lives overflow with faith.
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 9:9-11, 15-20 Deacon
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *This We Pray* Jay Althouse
Katie Sakanai, mezzo-soprano

OLD TESTAMENT READING I Samuel 17 selected verses
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 *God at Work: God Leads* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please stand) Elder
**God chose one people for the sake of all.
To the world in its rebellion and alienation,
God promised blessing and restoration.
The Lord chose Abraham and his descendants
as bearers of that promise for all peoples.
They had done nothing more than others to deserve the Lord's favor,
but God loved them and made them God's own.
We acknowledge God's freedom and grace.
Though we do not earn God's love, the Lord has made us God's own in Christ.
God has chosen us as servants for the sake of the world
and destined us to be daughters and sons, giving us love and life,
calling us to worship and honor the Lord.**
--adapted from A Declaration of Faith (1977)

* HYMN *Fight the Good Fight* No. 307 (see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (see words to the Lord's Prayer below)
**Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread; And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Be Thou My Vision* Irish Folk Melody

