

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 *The Holy City* Steven Adams
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Ellen J. Lorenz

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

Remember all that Jesus has said and done;

in Christ the promises of God are fulfilled.

Let us worship God.

* HYMN *Jesus Christ is Risen Today!* No. 123
Ridge Ringers

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

It was early in the morning, when God created all the good and beauty in the universe. It was early in the morning that a baby cried in a manger. It was early in the morning on that first day, when a voice told us that death has been defeated and Jesus is alive in our midst. Let us confess the fear, and the great joy, we bring with us, early in the mornings . . .

This morning, Wonderful God, in the company of your church - saints and sinners - we gather to celebrate your life, your ministry, your death and resurrection, your great love for us. Yet, we know we often leave the celebration here in the sanctuary, as we go back to our homes, our jobs, our fears, our doubts, our lives.

Bring us new life, God of the living, where we are tired and stressed; transform our hardened hearts into fountains of love; forgive us the hurts and harms we have caused; fill us with the joy of your Holy Spirit in the hollows of our souls.

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. God, our Creator, gives us new life; Christ, our Reconciliation, invites us to a Table; Holy Spirit, our Peace, teaches us the Way, the Truth, the Life; this is the Good News: the tomb is empty, death is conquered, sin has lost its power.

We are a new people, shaped by the Risen Lord into new life forever! Thanks be to God. Amen.

* SUNG RESPONSE

No. 108 v. 1

***Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.***

HEARING THE WORD

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES Acts 10:34-43 Pgs. 122-123
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Deacon

ANTHEM *Great Day! The Lord is Risen* Joseph M. Martin
Great Day!, Somebody's Knocking, My Lord, What a Morning
from *A Journey to Hope: A Cantata inspired by Spirituals*

GOSPEL Matthew 28:1-10 Pgs. 31-32
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** Laura Sugg

TIME WITH CHILDREN *(As the children come forward, please join in singing.)*
***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 *Go to Galilee* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**We believe that God's life-giving Word and Spirit
has conquered the powers of sin and death,
and therefore also of irreconciliation and hatred,
bitterness and enmity,
that God's life-giving Word and Spirit
will enable the church to live in a new obedience
which can open new possibilities of life
for society and the world.**

—Adapted from *The Confession of Belhar* (1986)

* HYMN *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks* No. 106 vv. 1, 2, & 4

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Classical Easter* Arr. Mark Helman
Ridge Ringers

*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING

No. 113 v. 1

**"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Al—le—lu—ia!
All creation, join to say; Al—le—lu—ia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Al—le—lu—ia!
Sing, O heav'ns, and earth reply, Al—le—lu—ia!**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Laura Sugg

**We praise you God and give you thanks,
that you have given us such joy,
such grace, and such hope,
in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Let our lives be proof of that good news.
Let all our words and actions, our love and service,
bear witness to your resurrection power;
for the sake of our living Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

* HYMN

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

No. 104

* CHARGE & BLESSING

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No. 122 v. 1

***Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won.***

POSTLUDE

Easter Fantasy Arr. Clarence Kohlmann
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores

Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly

Greeter: Maxine Foster

Ushers: Maxine Foster and Pat Robbins

Sound Engineer: Sean Mestdagh

Children's Time: Laura Sugg

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Director of Christian Education, Children & Youth: *Linda Valo*

Organist, Hand Bell Choir Director: *Julie Pulliam, M.A.*

Interim Choir Director: *Dawn C. Wooderson, Ph.D.*

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.*

April 16, 2017