

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

* Please stand if able

PRELUDE *I Think When I Read That Sweet Story* Arr. by Lawrence Grant

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Leader: Through all generations, God has been our dwelling place.

People: Before the mountains were brought forth,

Leader: Before the earth and the world were created,

People: From everlasting to everlasting, God is.

Leader: Sisters and brothers, praise the Lord!

People: The Lord's name be praised!

* HYMN *Come Sing to God* (See insert.)

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Please be seated.) Elder

Leader: God, we don't always make good choices.

People: We are sorry for being selfish.

Leader: God, we don't always think about how we hurt others.

People: Help us to know how to love people around us.

Leader: God, we sometimes live with hands that hold tightly to what we possess and with hearts holding close the love we have.

People: Open our hands and our hearts to show love to the world.

Leader: God, thank you for loving us right now and always—no matter what.

**People: Help us to make good choices, to trust in you,
and be at peace.**

(Time for Silent Prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Leader: Amen. Friends in Christ, you never walk alone.

People: God works joyfully to lift the burdens that hurt.

Leader: God works always to forgive us our sins.

People: God calls each of us to share compassion with each other.

All: Thanks be to God, Amen.

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Glory to God...* (See insert.)

HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Hosea 11*

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Traditional South African Praise* Anonymous

Women of WPC

TIME FOR 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 *Finding God in the Bible and Ourselves* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please stand.) Elder

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us
lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom.**

Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey

all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful.

No more than Christ are we spared

the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world.

We are in the world, but not of the world.

Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom:

to serve as he has served us;

to take up our cross,

risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;

to walk by faith, not by sight,

to hope for what we have not seen. Amen.

—from A Declaration of Faith (1977)

*HYMN *Take, O Take Me As I Am* (See insert.)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (For Lord's Prayer words see insert.)
(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Jesus Loves Me/ Clair de Lune* Arr. by Fred Bock

* PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore;

Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Laura Sugg

**Holy One,
whose heart abounds with gifts,
receive this offering as sign of our
intention to live
surrounded by your mercy,
inspired by your Spirit,
open to the joy of your presence,
hospitable to one another,
and generous toward your world.
Amen.**

* HYMN

God of Our Life

(See insert.)

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Tune: *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

***May the grace of Christ our Savior,
The Creator's boundless love,
And the Holy Spirit's favor,
Rest upon us from above.***

***Thus may we abide in union
With each other and the Lord,
And possess, in sweet communion,
Joys which earth cannot afford.***

POSTLUDE

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Arr. by H. T. Burleigh

Please come to Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Jim Niquette

Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly

Greeter: Jeff Stimson

Ushers: Jeff Stimson and Ted Willis

Sound Engineer: Jim Niquette

Children's Time: Addie Crabbe

Outdoor Setup Advisor: Jeff Stimson

Flowers: Lynn Thatcher



"...For who among us in our ecstasy, and especially our agony, needs a God of certitude? For it is the ache of our heart and the yearning of our body that we should finally be attended to by one who is full of grace, full of truth. The narrative of the God of fidelity lives in deep conflict with the syllogism/ [circular reasoning] of the gods of certitude. The gods of certitude are often in control, control through moralism, through settled orthodoxy, through the ideology often allied with the rulers of this age. But in the midst of the God of certitude there is this burst of the God of fidelity...."

--Walter Brueggemann

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.*

July 12, 2015