

## GATHERING FOR THE WORD

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

\* Please stand if able

PRELUDE *Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain* Arthur S. Sullivan  
Arr. Mary McDonald

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

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

One: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens,  
for the Lord will give you rest. (from Isaiah 40)

**All: The Lord is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble.**

One: Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

**All: They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.**

One: God consoles us in all our affliction,  
so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction.

**All: For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us,  
so also our healing is abundant through Christ.**

\* HYMN *O That I Had a Thousand Voices* No. 475

CALL TO PRAYER (Please be seated.) Elder

PRAYER OF RENEWAL (Unison) Elder

**Merciful God, we come to you not because we have it all together,  
but because we are not perfect.**

**We want to be more like your Son, who lived his whole life in love.**

**Our love is most often reserved for those who are close to us  
and those who love us in return.**

**Our forgiveness is most often conditional.**

**Fairness is more important to us than grace.**

**We cannot live up to the way Jesus leads us.**

**Forgive us, and make us more like Christ in all we say and do.**

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Leader: Those who trust in the Lord  
will renew their strength. (from Isaiah 40:31)

**People: They will rise up to fly like eagles,  
they will run and not be weary,  
they will walk and not grow faint.**

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Please stand) No. 479

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven, Glad of heart your carols raise;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Who, like me, should sing God's praise?  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Maker all your days!**

## HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40:27-31 Pg. 684

ANTHEM *Almighty God Who Hast Me Brought* Thomas Ford

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:29-39 Pg. 33

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

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 *Going Public* Laura Sugg

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand)

**Israel did not cease to be God's people**

**yet out of Israel a new people was formed.**

**The Spirit came with power to the followers of Jesus.**

**Led by the apostles they began to proclaim with boldness  
the new thing God had done in Christ.**

**They began to experience in their fellowship  
a new quality of common life.**

**We believe that by the power of the same Spirit**

**the church can be set on its way again,  
even when it seems beyond hope of renewal.**

**We are grateful heirs of reformations and awakenings.**

**We are faithful to the reformers of the past**

**when we hold ourselves open in the present  
to the reforming and renewing work of the Spirit.**

*from A Declaration of Faith (1977)*

\* HYMN *God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand* No. 262

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

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Prelude In C* Johann Sebastian Bach  
(Played with a Harpsichord stop on the Rodgers Organ)

\* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING No. 591  
**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 (Unison) Laura Sugg  
**We praise and thank you, Lord God,  
for the majesty of your work,  
the wisdom of your word,  
and the generosity of your grace.  
Let the gifts of our lives bear witness  
to your goodness and mercy,  
your faithfulness and justice,  
and your steadfast love for all. Amen.**

\* HYMN *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love* Sing the Faith No. 2223

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE  
***May the Lord go with you as you leave this place,  
May the Lord go with you as you celebrate His grace.  
May you be surrounded by His love unbounded,  
May the Lord go with you as you leave this place.***

POSTLUDE *Rondeau* Jean Joseph Mouret  
Arr. Elaine C. Gardner

*Please come through to Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.*

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Pulpit Elder: JoAnn Flores  
Greeters: Jeanne and Chuck Miller  
Sound Engineer: Sean Mestdagh  
Flowers: Janette and Mike Powers

Deacon Reader: Patty Goward Murray  
Ushers: Jeff Stimson and Ted Willis  
Speaker for Children's Time: Kevin Crowe

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## *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.*

*February 8, 2015*