

~Gathering the Family of God~

The Peal of the Church Bell

Prelude

Welcome

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Call to Worship

One: God has given us a new birth in the living hope of the resurrection.

All: **Blessed be the God of our Savior, Jesus Christ!**

One: God has given us an inheritance that is imperishable and unfading.

All: **In this we rejoice, even when we suffer trials.**

One: For although we have not seen Jesus, we love him;  
and although we have not seen him, we believe in him.

All: **For the effect of God's gift is the salvation of our souls.**

Opening Prayer

God of signs and wonders, you have revealed to us that Jesus Christ is your son and our Savior. Strengthen our faith, that we may have life in Christ's name. Amen.

\*Hymn *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* #687

\*Call to Confession

God has been made known to us in deeds of power, signs, and wonders, and will not abandon us if we confess the truth about our lives. Confident in God's grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

\*Confession of Sin (unison)

**God, you have made known to us the ways of life. Yet, too often, we put other things above you and turn away from the ways of life and toward the ways of death. Forgive us and guide us back into your presence, that we may know the fullness of joy, peace, and love. Amen.**

\*Silent Confession

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

My friends, God is our refuge and will not abandon us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and reconciled to God. That is a promise of peace and joy made possible by God's great love.

\*Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen, Amen.**

Tune: Gloria Patri, Henry W. Greatorex, 1851, Public Domain

~Hearing God's Word~

Heifer Project - Recognitions of Birthdays and Anniversaries

A Song of Blessing

All: **May joy and peace surround you, contentment at your door,  
And happiness be with you now, God bless you evermore.**

(Adapted from An Irish Blessing, Tune: Amazing Grace)

Prayer for Illumination

Guiding God, send your Holy Spirit upon the reading of your Word that it may serve to show us the path of life and lead us into your presence where there is fullness of joy. Amen.

First Reading

One: The Word of the Lord.

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

page 119

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

One: The Word of the Lord

Psalm 16:1-11

page 495

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

One: The Word of the Lord

1 Peter 1:3-9

page 232

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

*What Wondrous Love*

Marie Meunier (solo)

Gospel

One: The Word of the Lord.

John 20:19-31

page 115

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Rev. Terry Epling

\*Affirmation of Faith (unison)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

[The Apostles Creed].

\*Hymn

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight*

~Responding to God's Word~

**Invitation to Give**

Sisters and brothers, we have no good apart from God. Therefore let us keep God at the forefront of our minds and give generously from all that we have been given, that others may also receive from the fullness of God.

**Giving of our Tithes and Offerings & Friendship Pad**

*Please take a moment to sign your name and contact information in the pew pad.*

**Offertory**                      *Lord, We Come Before Thee Now*                      Thomas Canning

**\*Doxology**                      *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*                      #606  
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Amen.***

**\* Prayer of Dedication (unison)**

**Generous God, you are our portion and our cup. In you our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice, and our bodies rest. Bless and multiply our offerings and pledges that they may bring the joy of your presence more deeply into the world. Amen.**

**Life in Our Church Community**

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer**

***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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.***

**\* Closing Hymn**                      *How Firm a Foundation*                      #463

**\*Charge and Benediction**

Trust and love the Christ you cannot see and let that mystery bring you joy. May the God who loves and resurrects us give you a goodly portion of the Holy Spirit and new birth into a living hope.

**\*Postlude**                      *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*                      J.G. Walther

**\*Please stand, if you are able.**

Electronic aid for the hearing impaired is available from the usher.