



The People of God in Worship
March 21st, 2021
Eleven O'clock in the Morning

THE GREETING

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

To our Guests, Members, and Friends: In the pew rack you will find a small brochure to give us the opportunity to get to know you and serve you better. Fill in where appropriate, and place it in the collection plate. Welcome and thank you!

THE PRELUDE

Please consider the prelude as an invitation to quietly, reverently prepare yourself for worship.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Hon. John Cook

Leader: You have heard it said that we should obey the law. But Jesus says,

People: crack the law open.

Leader: You have heard it said that we should not murder. But Jesus says,

People: murder happens in our anger long before we act; we should keep control of our hungers so they do not hurt others.

Leader: You have heard it said that we should not be unfaithful to those we love. But Jesus says,

People: love is the greatest power there is. Nothing stops evil as well as love does.

Leader: Jesus says we can do better than just obeying rules;

People: Jesus calls us to make love our value and our practice, and teaches us,

Leader: seek first the kingdom of God,

All: and everything else will be ours.

***THE INVOCATION**

Hon. John Cook

***HYMN No. 713**

Seek Ye First

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

Greeting: The peace of Christ be with you!

Reply: And also with you!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 2:1-15

Hon. John Cook

Leader: A word from God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 5:21-43

Hon. John Cook

Leader: A word from God for the people of God

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF COMMUNITY, THE MORNING PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE GIFTS

Offertory Moment and Prayer

Hon. John Cook

THE MESSAGE

Crack It Open

The Rev. Dr. Martha D. Kearse

***HYMN No. 690**

He Leadeth Me

***THE BENEDICTION**

Offertory Moment

Many in our church community are hard at work during these weeks to ensure that people in our city are able to get vaccines. We are grateful for each among us who does this vital work and for the ways each of us have participated in keeping our community safe by wearing masks, staying socially distant and protecting each other in every way we could. We are grateful to be able to work together for the good of each of us.

Flowers

The flowers are given in loving memory of Martha Showalter who passed away March 2018.