Please join in those parts of the service printed in **BOLD**.

When this symbol 🕉 precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.

Ushers will collect prayer requests during the first hymn. Blue prayer cards are located in pews.

Please refer to the second half of the bulletin for more information about First Church.

**Thought Upon Entering**

“God's grace is not defined as God being forgiving to us even though we sin. Grace is when God is a source of wholeness, which makes up for my failings. My failings hurt me and others and even the planet, and God's grace to me is that my brokenness is not the final word ... it's that God makes beautiful things out of even my own sins. Grace isn't about God creating humans and flawed beings and then acting all hurt when we inevitably fail and then stepping in like the hero to grant us grace - like saying, "Oh, it's OK, I'll be the good guy and forgive you." It's God saying, "I love the world too much to let your sin define you and be the final word. I am a God who makes all things new."

*NADIA BOLZ-WEBER, PASTRIX: THE CRANKY, BEAUTIFUL FAITH OF A SINNER & SAINT*

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

**PRELUDE**  "In Thee Is Gladness"  
**J.S. Bach**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Stewardship Testimonial

**INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Leader:** Eternal God,

**All:** *we worship and adore you.*

**Leader:** You are the power within all things. Eternal God,

**All:** *we worship and adore you.*

**Leader:** You are the wisdom beyond all minds. Eternal God,

**All:** *we worship and adore you.*

**Leader:** You are the love revealed in the cross. Eternal God,

**All:** *we worship and adore you.*
HYMN 401, “Here in This Place”

GATHER US IN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION [unison]
Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Amen.

[Silence for personal confession]

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHORAL RESPONSE

HYMN 231, V. 3, [unison] “Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”

SUO GAN

Christ has risen and forever // lives to challenge and to change all whose lives are messed or mangled, // all who find religion strange. Christ is risen, Christ is present // making us what he has been: evidence of transformation // in which God is known and seen

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Children 4th grade and younger are invited forward for the Children’s message. After the Children’s Message, children Kindergarten and younger may leave for Wee One’s Worship.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

During the passing of the peace of Christ, you are encouraged to stand and greet nearby neighbors.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION [unison]
Lord, give us the courage to be open. Lord, we are open to the Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Hebrews 4:12-16, NT p. 220

SERMON “The Power of Confession” The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas
RESPONSE

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD’S PRAYER
Leader: And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray:
All: 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.

HYMN 262, “Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus”

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY “If You Search With All Your Heart” Craig Courtney

THE DOXOLOGY, HYMN 606 AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

HYMN 438, “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” TOPLADY

CHARGE AND BLESSING
Leader: Go out into the world in peace. All: Have courage.
Leader: Hold onto what is good. All: Return no one evil for evil.
Leader: Strengthen the faint-hearted. All: Support the weak.
Leader: Help the suffering. All: Honor all persons.
Leader: Love and serve the Lord, All: rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

CHORAL RESPONSE “Fourfold Amen” Harker

POSTLUDE “Tuba Tune in D Major” C.S. Lang

Today’s Anthem was commissioned in memory of Brenda Jean Wassink, who was shot and killed at the age of 22 while working in Kansas City, three months before she was to be married. In the months following her death, Brenda’s family and fiancé found themselves clinging to Jeremiah 29:11; “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

USHERS Lynn Mccauley, Head Usher; Ty and Wendy Headley, Glenn Burdick, Laura Burdick