

**Sunday, October 29th, 2017**

*The liturgist and pastor will meet in the hall outside the choir room a couple of minutes prior to the start of the service at 10:45am. After a short prayer with the choir, the liturgist will enter and take his/her seat followed by the Pastor who will step into the pulpit, welcome everyone, and make announcements....*

*The liturgist will then ask...*

“Are there any other announcements or concerns of the church that need to be made known at this time?..... Thank you.

**PRELUDE** "How Firm a Foundation" - Gilbert M. Martin **Dr. Elizabeth Davis**  
**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP** "Rejoice in the Day!" - Dan Dykema **The Choir**

*After the Prelude, the liturgist should step to the lectern and say,*

“Would you join me in reading the responsive call to worship adapted from Psalm 18 and printed in our bulletins?”

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (adapted from Psalm 18)

I love you, O Lord, my strength.

**The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer,**

My God is the Rock in whom I take refuge,

**He is my shield and my stronghold.**

In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help.

**From his temple he heard my voice, and reached down from on high.**

My cry reached his ears and He drew me out of mighty waters.

**He delivered me from the enemies who hated me.**

He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

**For who is God except the Lord?**

And who is a rock besides our God?

**My God girded me with strength, and made my way safe.**

The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock!

**Let us exalt the God of our salvation!**

For this we will extol you, O Lord, among the nations;

**We will declare your works and sing praises to your name.**

Let us worship God beginning with prayer....

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Let us pray... Eternal God, as we gather in this time and place, we are reminded of your mighty works amid the great drama of human history. We praise you for never giving up on us, for loving us with a love from which nothing can separate us. As you have made heroes of the weakest and the least clever among us, and empowered them to work miracles of compassion, justice, and righteousness on our behalf, use us as unlikely heroes in your plan of redemption as well. Increase our awareness of your activity and presence and teach us how to draw upon your power to accomplish great things on behalf of your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Would all of you who are able please stand with me and join in singing our opening hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”, #260 in our Hymnals.

*The liturgist should step back from the microphone for the hymn.*

\*HYMN OF PRAISE “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” *The Hymnal #260*

*After the hymn, the preacher will step into the lectern and say...*

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

Our faith calls us to take up our cross and to follow Jesus wherever he may lead. We are to live our lives courageously so that others may discover him by watching us. Knowing how far we all fall short of the righteousness to which we are called, let us come before God and admit our fears and failings as we pray together the prayer of confession printed in our bulletins, pausing at its conclusion for a moment of silent prayer. Let us pray...

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(In Unison)

Almighty and Victorious God, how many times have you commanded us in your Word to be of good courage and to fear not. You have made all things new, and yet despite our new identities as your beloved children, we remain plagued by worry and doubt. Forgive the rationalizations we present to you as reasons, the resistance that is most often grounded in fear. Forgive our reliance on ourselves, our lack of trust in you, and the refusal to hear and believe your assurance on the journey. Forgive us all that is past, and free us to a new and living faith in you, through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

\*SILENT CONFESSION

*Pause for about 30 seconds of silence.*

\*THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ... He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us." Friends believe the Good News!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!**

\*GLORIA PATRI

*The Hymnal #579*

***Glory be to the Father, & to the Son, & to the Holy Ghost;***

***As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without end. Amen, Amen.***

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Having been reconciled to the Father through the grace of his Son, let us be reconciled to one another and share the peace of Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Share the peace of Christ with others as you will.*

*After a few moments, the liturgist will step into pulpit and say...*

"At this time I want to invite all of our younger friends to come forward for a Word from the Lord brought to them by Pastor Mike."

*The liturgist will take a seat.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

*(All Singing)*

***Jesus friend so kind and gentle, little ones we bring to thee;  
Grant to them thy dearest blessing. Let thine arms around them be;  
Now enfold them in thy goodness, from all danger keep them free.***

Super Powers

Flip through a few comic books containing the adventures of superheroes, and ask the children to tell you where the superheroes get their powers. Point out that doses of radioactivity are a popular source of power, such as the radioactive spider that bites Spiderman. Mention that some superheroes get their powers from mysterious, otherworldly places — Superman comes from the planet Krypton. Then ask them to tell you where we get our power as Christians. Our power comes from God, and it is felt when the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness (Romans 8:26). Our power also comes from Jesus, who was sent by God to earth to give us the help we need (v. 34). Ask the children to guess what we are supposed to do with all this power that comes from God. Suggest that we are supposed to act like Jesus, and share his love and forgiveness and healing with people around us. Close by saying that when people look at us, they won't see web-spinning or super-strength, but they will see the power of God in what we say and do.

*As the children depart from the front, the Liturgist will step back to the microphone and say: "Today marks the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Here to remind us of its significance for us is Joanna Smith."*

*The liturgist will take a seat until Joanna leaves the microphone.*

A REFORMATION MOMENT

Joanna Smith

**Reformation Sunday**

Today we celebrate that moment, 500 years ago, when Martin Luther, nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the church at Wittenburg, Germany.

As this 500th anniversary year was begun a year ago, Pope Francis announced that after five hundred years, Protestants and Catholics now “have the opportunity to mend a critical moment in our history by moving beyond the controversies and disagreements that have often prevented us from understanding one another.” From that, it sounds as if the Reformation was an unfortunate and unnecessary squabble over trifles, a childish outburst that we can all put behind us now that we have grown up.

Yet so great were the abuses by the clergy, so disturbing was the corruption of the Church, that when Martin Luther and a French lawyer named John Calvin began to read and to preach the Word of God, rather than the traditions of the Church, a firestorm of change was kindled. Fuel was added to the fire as printing presses all over Europe began printing Bibles in the language of the common man for the first time.

Armed only with the Word of God, Luther and Calvin not only spawned a panoply of Christian denominations each seeking to live the Gospel in ever greater faithfulness, it also spawned the Counter-Reformation which corrected much of what had gone wrong in the Catholic Church.

The Reformers were guided in leading that process by the rule that has been memorialized in our own Book of Order: “We are reformed, and always being reformed, according to the Word of God.” We do not reform ourselves, only God can do that. And the shape of that transformation is not determined by culture, or church leaders, or political expedience, but by the will of God as revealed in Scripture. That was the first of five “Solas”.

The Five Solas are five Latin phrases (or slogans) that emerged during the Reformation to summarize the Reformers’ theological convictions about the essentials of Christianity.

**The Five Solas are:**

***Sola Scriptura*** (“Scripture alone”): The Bible alone is our highest authority. Every word of the 66 books of the Bible is inspired by God’s Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit also helps us to understand and obey Scripture.

***Sola Fide*** (“faith alone”): We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ.

***Sola Gratia*** (“grace alone”): We are saved by the grace of God alone. God graciously preserves us and keeps us. When we are faithless toward him, he is still faithful.

*Sola fide* and *sola gratia* express the teaching of Ephesians 2:8:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

***Solus Christus*** (“Christ alone”): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King. God has given the ultimate revelation of himself to us by sending Jesus Christ, Colossians 1:15. Only through God’s gracious self-revelation in Jesus do we come to a saving and transforming knowledge of God.

***Soli Deo Gloria*** (“to the glory of God alone”): We live for the glory of God alone.

As the Westminster Catechism says, the chief purpose of human life is “to glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

Among his last words, Luther urges us to have humility as we approach the Word of God. “We are beggars! This is true.” This is gospel humility. Why does the Reformation matter so much, 500 years later? Because of the discovery that we are all beggars. This is the significance in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and in the 21<sup>st</sup>. Apart from the Word of God, we are in utter darkness. But when the light of God’s Word shines, all is brought to light. Our true need as sinners before a holy God becomes stunningly plain. The work of Christ on the cross for us also becomes beautifully clear. We learn about Christ and the Gospel only in the Word of God.

**THE INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

God is our refuge and strength, our very present help in trouble. Let us give generously and joyfully in response to his unfailing provision and protection as we continue our worship with the presentation of our tithes & offerings...

*The liturgist will sit down until the Doxology begins to play.*

## THE OFFERTORY

Dr. Elizabeth Davis

**“Choral Prelude: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” - G.F. Kauffmann**

## \*DOXOLOGY (In Unison)

*The Hymnal #592*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*After the Doxology, the liturgist will return to the lectern and say...*

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray... Almighty God, you protect us from all evil, even when we are our own worst enemies. Take the little we offer this day, and magnify it by your power, that these gifts may be used to extend your security and salvation to all who will receive it. In Jesus name. Amen.

*Invite the congregation to... “Be seated,” and take a seat.*

## THE ANTHEM

**"Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" - Temple/Barnard**

**The Choir**

*After the Anthem, the Preacher will step to the microphone and say:*

**Would the West family please come forward to the font?**

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Hear also these words from Holy Scripture:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

The promise is for you, for your children and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls.

### **The Presentation and Promises**

*The minister continues:*

Obeying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called.

In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God.

God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.

By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

Let us remember with joy our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

**Elder:** On behalf of the session, I present Georgia Lea West, daughter of Chad and Lea West, to receive the sacrament of Baptism.

*The minister then addresses parents presenting children for baptism:* Do you desire that Georgia be baptized?

*The parents respond:* I do.

*The minister continues:* Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to your child?

*The parents respond:* I do.

*The minister addresses the family and sponsors:*

Do you promise, through prayer and example, to support and encourage Georgia to be a faithful Christian?

*The sponsors respond:* I do.

*The minister addresses the congregation:* Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Georgia, by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging her to know and follow

Christ and to be faithful members of his church?

*The people respond:* We do.

*The minister continues:* Through baptism we enter the covenant God has established. Within this covenant God gives us new life, guards us from evil, and nurtures us in love. In embracing that covenant, we choose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

*The minister then asks the following questions of the parents of children being presented for baptism.*

Chad and Lea, As God embraces you within the covenant, I ask you to reject sin, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, and to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

**I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

**I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

**I will, with God's help.**

### **Profession of Faith**

*The minister continues:*

With the whole church, let us stand together and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize, using the traditional words of the Apostles' Creed as it is found on page 14 in our Hymnals.

Let us say

what we believe:

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven & 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.**

### **Thanksgiving over the Water**

Let us pray: We give you thanks, Eternal God, for you nourish and sustain all living things by the gift of water. In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life. In the waters of Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, Christ set us free from sin and death, and opened the way to eternal life.

We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. From it we are raised to share in his resurrection, Through it we are reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Send your Spirit to move over this water that it may be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth. Wash away the sin of all who are cleansed by it.

Raise them to new life, and graft them to the body of Christ. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them, that they may have power to do your will, and continue forever in the risen life of Christ. Amen.

### **The Prayer of Dedication and Laying on of Hands**

*Calling each candidate by his or her Christian (given) name or names only, the minister shall pour or sprinkle water visibly and generously on the candidate's head while saying:*

Georgia Lea West, child of the covenant, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The minister lays hands on the head of each person baptized, while saying:*

O Lord, uphold Georgia by your Holy Spirit. Give her the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of

knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, that she may continue yours forever. Amen.

Georgia, child of the covenant, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism, and marked as Christ's own forever. Amen.

### **The Welcome**

*The minister continues:*

Georgia Lea West has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism.

God has made her a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ.

Let us welcome the newest member of Christ's family by **remaining seated** and singing the hymn, "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry", #2051 in the *Sing the Faith Hymnal Supplement*."

*The father will take the baby through the congregation, starting with the choir. The rest of the family will return to their seats.*

\*HYMN OF PREPARATION "I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry" *Sing the Faith #2051*

*After the father and child take their seat or leave for the nursery, the Liturgist will return to the lectern & say....*

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Our first lesson this morning is taken from the first chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, beginning at the twenty-seventh through the 31st verse which is slightly different than is indicated in your bulletins. I'll be reading from the New International Version this morning. Listen now for the word of God...

"God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

*The liturgist will return to her seat either on the chancel or with family or friends in the congregation. Thank you for your service.*

*When the liturgist finishes, the preacher will step into the pulpit & say...*

Our sermon text for today is taken from the book of Judges, the sixth Chapter, the first verse through the sixteenth verse. I'll be reading from the New International Version this morning, but if you would like to follow along in your pew bibles, you can find it on page 213. Listen once more for the Word of God:

"The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, and for seven years he gave them into the hands of the Midianites. Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and strongholds. Whenever the Israelites planted their crops, the Midianites, Amalekites and other eastern peoples invaded the country. They camped on the land and ruined the crops all the way to Gaza and did not spare a living thing for Israel, neither sheep nor cattle nor donkeys. They came up with their livestock and their tents like swarms of locusts. It was impossible to count them or their camels; they invaded the land to ravage it. Midian so impoverished the Israelites that they cried out to the Lord for help.

When the Israelites cried out to the Lord because of Midian, he sent them a prophet, who said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. I rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians. And I delivered you from the hand of all your oppressors; I drove them out before you and gave you their land. I said to you, 'I am the Lord your God; do not worship the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you live.' But you have not listened to me."

The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all his wonders that our ancestors told us about when they said, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?’ But now the Lord has abandoned us and given us into the hand of Midian.”

The Lord turned to him and said, “Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian’s hand. Am I not sending you?”

“Pardon me, my lord,” Gideon replied, “but how can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family.”

The Lord answered, “I will be with you, & you will strike down all the Midianites, leaving none alive.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## THE SERMON

“Unlikely Heroes”

Joshua was a good man, a strong and capable leader, a man who lived the Word of God and who served God faithfully. When he died, the people of Israel did OK for a while, but as time passed, they drifted further and further away from his example.

From a Lower Story perspective, people were enjoying this time. There was so much freedom. Nothing was off limits. They forsook any pretense of keeping the Law, since they believed it only served to limit their options and keep them from being what they believed to be their true, authentic selves.

From God’s Upper Story perspective, the people had turned their backs on his love, his wisdom, and his protection. Their vision was much too small to comprehend that the law, which God had given them, offered them the freedom they had craved along with the security and safety they needed. When the people were conquered by evil kingdoms, they lost it all-- freedom and safety. They could not understand why God would allow such a calamity. They only saw it as God’s unjustified judgment and punishment. But God knew it was the result of their own choices. When one chooses an action, one chooses the consequence that goes with it.

But in due time, when their hearts turned back to God, and they cried out for help, God did not abandon them, so he raised up a new leader to deliver them from evil and restore them to a right relationship with Him.

The Book of Judges, for the most part, talks about 6 people, 6 plain men and women, all with flaws and feet of clay; two were illegitimate children, disinherited by their families; one was a woman in a culture so patriarchal that women were considered the property of their husbands, one was a farm boy; and the one who did have the looks of a leading man and supernatural strength spoiled it all by sleeping around with bad girls and by failing to rein in his oversized ego.

God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

God saw something in these six individuals. These were people who loved him, each in their own flawed way. None of them had everything that they needed to defeat Israel’s enemies and deliver their people. But they had the only qualities essential to their new role: They loved God, they listened to God, and they obeyed God. They may have been unlikely heroes. Ordinary. Common as dirt. But make no mistake-- they were heroes, and whatever they lacked, God supplied them in abundance.

Genuine heroes are rare today. We have many fake heroes today which have been created by the media. They are man-made heroes, not God-made heroes. The ones that I see labeled "heroes" lack compassion, ethics, family values, and character. Those I see called "heroes" may be able to sing or dance or play ball, but for the most part they cannot or will not serve others unless it spikes the sales of their product, or gets their name in the headlines.

**Here are the secrets to becoming a hero--**

It is not the size of the individual that counts. God is with you and He is great enough to solve any problem, right any wrong, defeat any foe.

It's not your particular gifts that are required. God can and will supply you with whatever you need to accomplish his purpose.

Heroism is not demonstrating a lack of fear, but the presence of faith.

Heroism does not require courage, but obedience.

When I sense someone, especially me, is believing the lies of this world instead of the truth that God want them to know. I will ask them, "Could you give me a five-word sentence... that you have heard and that has robbed you of strength and courage?" Here are some of their answers:

- "It's too late for me."
- "No one will want me."
- "It's never going to happen."
- "You'll always be a loser."
- "You're never going to change."
- "You will always be alone."
- "You've failed as a mom."
- "You're just like your father."
- "God doesn't love you anymore."

I remember playing this game with myself a few years back when things weren't going so well. But in the silence, as soon as I thought of a reason for quitting or another rationalization for my failure, I heard God answer my doubt, just quoting 5 words from Joshua 6:16: "I will be with you... "

- You have some fears? So did each of the judges. So do I. But God is with me!
- Ever wonder about your resources? So did each of the judges. So do I. But God is with me.
- Ever wonder if you got what it takes? So did the judges. So do I. **But God is with me.**

But they became heroes because they remembered the only thing they needed to remember-- **GOD WILL BE WITH YOU.**

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

#### THE PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Would you pray with me...

Our Father, take us to a place where, untouched by the enemy, we might absorb the peace of your words spoken to all and be reminded that if You are for us, who can be against us?

Our hearts are weary, bombarded by the criticism of cynical people, the pressures to perform, as well as the state of the world surrounding us. Too often we have allowed such trivial things to overwhelm us. Release us, nourish our souls with your songs of hope and love so that we may accomplish all to which you call us.

As we travel with you, let us go forth with courage so that we might speak when the easiest way before us is to keep silent. Let our words sustain ... nurture ... comfort ... console ... and yes, even stir the complacent as we remember that Jesus came and turned the world upside down ... and then put everything right. Make us heroes, as unlikely and impossible as it may seem, empowered and given purpose by your eternal Word and your limitless grace. We offer our prayers in the name of the one whose cross we carry, Jesus the Christ, and who taught us to pray saying...

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.

Let all of us who are able stand & join in one voice to sing our hymn of dedication, "Fight the Good Fight", hymn #307 in our Hymnals. If you are unable to remain for the brief congregational meeting which will follow the hymn, please feel free to exit during the final verse.

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION**

**"Fight the Good Fight"**

*The Hymnal #307*

**THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Prayer**

"Let us pray. Guide us in our deliberations, O God, and touch our lives with your loving kindness. Grant that our decisions may be in the same spirit that was in Christ Jesus and be served through us in our world today. Amen."

**Clerk**

**Report from Anita or Jodie**

The Nominating Committee met Sunday, October 15th, at 2:30 pm in the Women's classroom; present were Committee Chair, Anita Moore; Jessica Arnold, deacon's representative; Jodie Arnold, Session's representative; Mike McNeill, Men of the Church; Dalene Baer, Women of the church; and Joanna Smith, Choir. Also present was the Pastor, Mike Morgan who called the meeting to order with prayer.

The following names were placed in nomination after getting their consent:

For Deacon, Class of 2018: Karen Pierce.

For Deacon, Class of 2020: Jimmy Arnold and Mike Bentley.

For Elder, Class of 2020: Katherine Phillips, Kay Whitehead, & Sue Joyce.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with prayer by Jessica Arnold at 3:15 pm.

**Request for Nominations from Floor**

**Motion to elect entire slate by acclamation**

**Rise for the Benediction**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

Go forth into the world in peace rejoicing that God has a purpose for your life. Stand firm in the knowledge that nothing can separate you from the love of God. And then resolve to do great things to His glory.

May the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit keep you forever strong and of good courage so that you may be one of God's Unlikely Heroes.

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

"Spirit of the Living God"

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

**\*POSTLUDE**

Dr. Elizabeth Davis