

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

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

* Please stand if able Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

PRELUDE *Here I Am, Lord* Daniel L. Schutte
Arr. Mark Hayes

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand)

May God's peace rest on our busy lives so that we are quieted into prayer.

**May God's love flow through our worship words so that we are
awake to opportunities for service.**

May God's grace embrace every need and may the restless Gospel
set our hearts afire.

Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy* No. 430, see insert

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

Let us pray:

**God of new life, we often say that anyone who is in Christ is a new
creation. Yet when we consider our lives, we confess our failure to live
in Christ. You promised to be present with us always, yet our fear for
the future shows we do not always trust in you. You love us with a
great, eternal, and costly love, yet our self-doubt shows that we have
not always opened ourselves to your love. You promise that where your
Spirit is, there is freedom, yet the injustice within your Church and this
nation shows that we have not let you set us free.**

**God, guide us on the slow journey of growth. Free us from our fears,
our prejudice, and our self-hatred, that we may live in Christ in the
freedom of your Spirit. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE *Isaiah 43:1, 19*

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth!

By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.

* SUNG RESPONSE (Stand as desired) *Blessed Assurance* No. 341 v.1, see green insert

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O What a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Nehemiah 5:1-13 Laura Sugg
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC *Love Is the Law That Jesus Taught* traditional tune
Katie Sakanai text by Timothy Dudley Smith

EPISTLE READING I Peter 2:11-19 Deacon
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH

(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 *God and the Big Stuff of Life:
Institutions* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) Elder

**In recognition of special gifts of the Spirit and for the ordering
of its life as a community, the church calls, trains, and authorizes
certain members for leadership and oversight.**

**The church thus orders its life as an institution with a constitution,
government, officers, finances, and administrative rules. These are
instruments of mission, not ends in themselves. A presbyterian polity
recognizes the responsibility of all members for ministry
.... It seeks to protect the church from exploitation by ecclesiastical or
secular power and ambition. Every church order must be open to such
reformation as may be required to make it a more effective instrument of
the mission of reconciliation.**

—from *The Confession of 1967* [9.39, 40]

* HYMN *Great is Thy Faithfulness* No. 276, see insert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (words to the Lord's Prayer below)

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against
us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is
the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *In Times Like These* Ruth Kay Jones
Arr. Fred Bock

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING No. 147, see green insert

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, (2x)
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, (5x)***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**O God, through the offering of these gifts
may we become a more open people...
open-minded in hearing your Word and wisdom,
open-hearted in healing a broken world,
open-handed in heeding your call for justice and enacted love.
With thanks for all good gifts, we present a portion of our substance
and the whole of ourselves. Amen.**

* HYMN *Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining* No. 425, see insert

* CHARGE & BLESSING

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE No. 420 v. 2 last 1.5 lines, see green insert

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days. For the living of these days.***

POSTLUDE *Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho* Traditional Spiritual

Please come to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church

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Organist, Hand Bell Choir Director: Julie Pulliam, M.A.

Music Director: Katie Sakanai, M.M. Ed.

Treasurer: Eileen Gardner, C.P.A. • Assistant Treasurer: Betsy Smith

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Garner



*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.*

***God and the Big Stuff of Life:
Institutions
August 25, 2019***