

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church Worship, September 12, 2021

“The Last Word” Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

• Ezekiel 37:1-14 • John 11:37-45 •

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 *O Beautiful for Spacious Skies/ God Bless America* Pianist, Julie Pulliam
Presbyterian Hymnal #564,
(GBA) Words and Music by Irving Berlin,

Welcome and Announcements Pulpit Elder, Marcia Hecox

* **Call to Worship** (Please stand) Elder

The psalmist tells us if we will but wait, God will whisper hope to us.

Do you believe this?

**We believe God's Word is not a pipe dream,
but the river of love which flows forever!**

Paul reminds us that it is foolishness to think only of ourselves and our wants.

Do you believe this?

**We believe that when we pay attention to God,
we will find joy, peace, love!**

Jesus calls us to walk in the light,

so that we will not continue to stumble over our sin.

Do you believe this?

**We believe he is the One who leads us out of Hopeless Valley
into the kingdom of grace and life!**

Let us worship God.

* **Hymn** *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* PH # 466 see insert

Call to Prayer and Prayer for Renewal (Be seated, unison) Elder

If God was intent on keeping score, we would end up losing every time. But God loves us so much, that we are invited to join in that game of grace which never comes to an end. With such hope for our lives, let us confess to God. Let us pray...

Like the disciples, Holy One, we drag our feet when it comes to following you. You would have us face conflict, and we look the other way. You would lead us into those hopeless valleys where so many of your children live, and we would build homes on the mountaintops. You would bring all of us into your peace and reconciliation, but we stay entombed in our troubles and fears.

Forgive us, Creator of new lives. As Lazarus was brought forth from the grave, unbind every worry which keeps us from living as your children. As the Spirit led Jesus from the tomb into the joy of the Resurrection, fill us with the power to walk in the light of this hope. As Jesus offers us the life and resurrection we need, help us to believe the good news which comes from our Lord and Savior.

(time for silent prayer)

Assurance of God's Grace

The Rev. Steve Blackstock

Amen. Jesus loved Lazarus so much, he brought him back from the grave.

God loved Jesus so much, that he was raised to new life.

See how much God loves us – loves you! by forgiving and saving us.

**We thank you for hearing our prayers, Lord God, and for setting us free
from everything which would bind us to sin and death. Amen.**

***Gloria**

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.***

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination and Scripture Readings:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Deacon Reader, Mick Domenick

John 11:37-45

Guest Preacher, Rev. Steve Blackstock

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Time with All Ages

Director of C.E., Linda Valo

(As the children and youth come forward, please join in singing)

Tune: Ode to Joy

***God, we love this congregation! On this day, we're glad to see
friends and neighbors, gathered, praying, as a church community.
Young and old, we join in worship—some in person, some on line.
We are drawn by faith and friendship in this blessed place and time.***

(After TWAA, children Pre-K-6th grade may leave with Linda Valo for Kids' Kingdom.)

Sermon

The Last Word

The Rev. Steve Blackstock

* **Affirmation of Faith** (Please Stand)

Elder

**We believe that God is the one
who wishes to bring about justice
and true peace among people.**

**We believe that God,
in a world full of injustice and enmity,
is in a special way
the God of the destitute,
the poor, and the wronged.**

--Adapted from the *Confession of Belhar*

Prayers of the People concluding with the 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 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.

* **Hymn** *Come Down, O Love Divine* PH # 313 see insert

Prayer of Dedication—Thank you for God's gifts and for gifts of time, talents, money.
(Offering plate or box is available by the attendance table or on the middle table in the Narthex.)

Charge and Benediction

Closing Sung Response Tune: Ode to Joy
*In this year, with all its trials, there are things that we have missed.
Still, In Christ you've walked beside us; by your Spirit, we've been blessed.
Love's our history, love's our vision, Love's the work we're called to do.
Bless us as our congregation moves together, serving you.*

Postlude *Battle Hymn of the Republic* Pianist, Julie Pulliam
William Steffe

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Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church

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Director of Christian Education, Children & Youth: Linda Valo

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.*

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