

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

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

* Please stand in body or spirit Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

Prelude: “Raise Now Your Song on High” Organist, Julie Pulliam
Camille Saint-Saens Arr. Lani Smith

Welcome The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

* **Call to Worship** (Please stand) Elder, Mick Domenick

Blessed:

The poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek.

We gather to hear who Christ calls blessed;

**Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful,
the pure in heart, the peacemakers, the persecuted.**

Blessed.

* **Hymn** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” No. 464

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

God has told us what is good, what is required:

Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God.

Those commands are so simple,

yet we know we have not always followed them.

With that knowledge, we confess.

Merciful God, we fail to do what is right.

Instead, we pursue evil and do not speak the truth.

Even when we try our best to be faithful,

still we turn away from you.

Forgive us, accept us, and redeem us,

that we may seek to do what you call good

(A time for silent prayer)

Assurance of Pardon (responsive) Whit Dempsey

Amen. Christ Jesus who became for us wisdom and righteousness,

sanctification and redemption, is the one who judges us.

Christ is the one who was born for us and forgives us with abundant love.

Hear the good news of the gospel: God will not withhold mercy from us.

We will boast of all the good God has done for us! Thanks be to God!

* **Sung Response** (Stand as desired.) Tune: Bring a Torch
***Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on High.***

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination and Scripture Readings

Micah 6:1-8 (pg. 891)

Matthew 5:1-12 (NT pg. 4)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Deacon Reader, Lori Golightly

The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

Time with all Ages: C.E. director of Children & Youth, Linda Valo

(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.

Special Music “In the Bleak Midwinter” Gustav Theodore Hoist 1906
Barbara S., Belinda, Dick I., Don T., Walt P.

Sermon “Ten Essentials for Colorado” Rev. Whit Dempsey

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* **Affirmation of Faith** (From *A Declaration of Faith*) Elder

God created human beings with a need for community

and with freedom to enter into it

**by responding to their Maker with grateful obedience and to one
another with love and helpfulness.**

We believe that we have been created to relate to God

and each other in freedom and responsibility.

We may misuse our freedom and deny our responsibility

**by trying to live without God and other people
or against God and other people.**

Yet we are still bound to them for our life and well-being,

and intended for free and responsible fellowship with them.

**Since every human being is made for communion with God and others,
we must treat no one with contempt.**

* **Hymn** “Arise, Your Light Has Come” No. 411

Announcements The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

Front of Hymnal, Pg. 16

Offertory

"Ode to Saint Cecilia"

Organist, Julie Pulliam
Charles Gounod, Arr. George Blake

*** Presentation of Offering**

"Doxology"

No. 591/2

***Praise God, From whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, All creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*** Prayer of Dedication**

*** Hymn**

"Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing"

No. 528

Charge and Benediction

*** Sung Congregational response:**

Christ, Be Our Light!

GTG 314



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered to - day.

Postlude

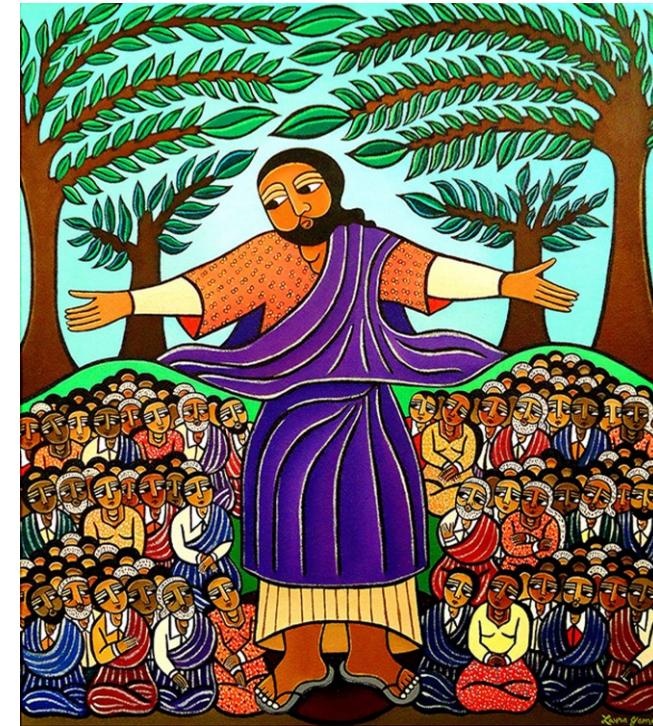
"Deo Gratias"

Organist, Julie Pulliam
Anthony Giamanco

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Mick Domenick
Time with All Ages: Linda Valo
Ushers: Ralph & Marcia Hecox

Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly
Greeter: Jeff Stimson



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.*

January 29, 2023
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany