

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: "Stand Up for Jesus" Organist, Julie Pulliam
Arr. Martha Sobaje

Welcome The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

Call to Worship

We are called to the work of Israel, to the work of Jesus.

We are called to spread God's love in this world.

We can do this work, as we are, because of the Holy Spirit.

By God's grace, we are salt.

We purify, we cleanse, we bind, we bring out the best in people.

By God's grace, we are light.

We allow things to be seen as they are. We point to holiness.

By God's grace, we follow the commandments and the law.

We love the Lord our God and our neighbors as ourselves.

By God's grace, we are salt.

We are light. God transforms us and uses us.

Let us worship our God, so full of transformative grace.

* Hymn "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" No. 454

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

In worship, everyone is welcome as they are.

We invite each other to set our burdens down,
including the burden of false pretenses.

Let us be honest with God and with our selves

about the ways that we fail

so that we can hear the good news of Jesus' redemption anew.

Let us confess our sins together and individually.

Almighty God, you have called us

to bring out the best in the world around us,

to be bold in our faith, to share your love with those around us.

We have failed your command. We choose conflict.

We choose laziness. We choose excuses.

Forgive us for rejecting the identity that you offer us freely,

for rejecting the work of your Holy Spirit in our hearts.

(A time for silent prayer)

Declaration of Forgiveness Whit Dempsey

Amen. Even when we fail, even when we are not perfect, God still claims us. God still calls us by name. God still places God's Spirit upon us.

We are known and loved and forgiven. Amen.

* 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

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 58:1-12 Deacon Reader, Lori Golightly
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** (pgs 704-705)

Special Music "What A Wonderful World" George Weiss & Bob Thiele
Soloist, Pat Cress

Gospel Reading Matthew 5:13-20 The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** (NT pg. 4)

Time with all Ages: Roxanne Foster

(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 "Loose the Chains of Injustice!" Rev. Dr. Whit Dempsey

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Announcements The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

Communion of the People

Prayers at the table (including prayers of the people)

Words of Institution

Serving Communion "Steal Away" Arr. Lani Smith

Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

*(Bread is taken individually. Please **wait to take juice/wine together.**)*

(White grape juice is in the outer ring of the tray;

red wine in the middle ring, and water in the center.)

Prayer after Communion

Offertory "Largo in G" Organist, Julie Pulliam
George Frideric Handel

*** 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** "Live Into Hope" No. 332

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 "Lift Every Voice and Sing" Organist, Julie Pulliam
PH #563

Please come to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Linda Johnston Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly
Time with All Ages: Roxanne Foster Greeter: Eleanor Fowler
Ushers: Kerry Gardner & Chuck Miller Flowers: Bob and Nancy Rosi
Communion: Charles Cuthill, Jo Ann Flores, Janette Powers, Jeff Stimson

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church

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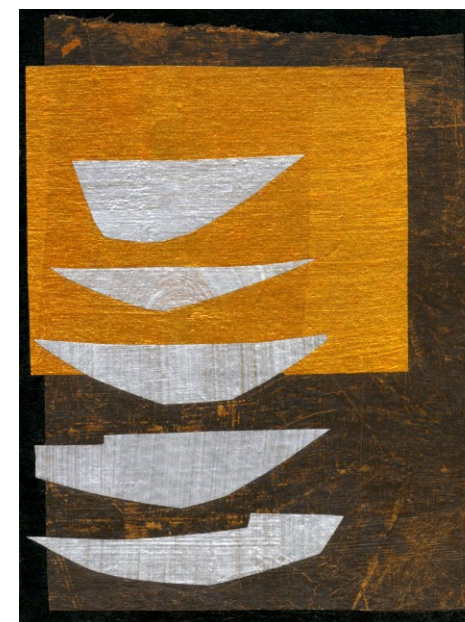
Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey pastor@wrpres.org

Director of Christian Education, Children & Youth: Linda Valo

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

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.*

***Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 5, 2023***