

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: “The Heavens Declare” Organist, Julie Pulliam
Organ/Piano Duet, Piano, Betty Niquette Arr. Lani Smith

Welcome The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

* **Call to Worship** (Please stand) Elder, Linda Johnston

For forty days and forty nights,

led by the Spirit, Christ fasted in the wilderness.

For forty days and forty nights,

we prepare ourselves to meet the crucified and risen Christ.

Let us worship God.

Special Music “Man in Black” Johnny Cash
Guitarist and Singer, Roger Smiley

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

When we stay silent, when we do not acknowledge what we need to change,
we waste away.

Our guilt turns into shame that eats away at us like a poison.

God calls us to repent and be healed; let us turn to God.

Merciful One, we are so easily tempted.

We turn away from your word so quickly.

**We seek anything that claims to save us from discomfort,
inconvenience, pain, fear, and emptiness.**

But these are false idols, dissolving in the wind.

You are our true hope and salvation,

our hiding place, our guide, our guardian.

We confess our transgressions to you: forgive our sins.

(A time for silent prayer)

* **Sung Response** (Stand as desired.) No. 572

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive) Whit Dempsey

Amen. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice!

God does not count our sins against us, but offers us a free gift of righteousness.

Thanks be to God!

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination and Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 32 Deacon Reader, Lori Golightly
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** (pgs. 512-513)

Anthem “He, Whom the Angels Worship” Traditional Irish
WRPC Choir Arr. Allan Ballard

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11 The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** (NT pg. 3)

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.

Sermon “ChatGPT Wrote This Weeks Sermon!” Rev. Whit Dempsey

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* **Affirmation of Faith** (From *A Brief Statement of Faith*) Elder

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Special Music “Make Me A Channel, of Your Peace”
Singer, Belinda Smiley

Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Front of Hymnal, Pg. 16

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

Offertory

"Lead Me to Calvary" Organist, Julie Pulliam
Piano/Organ Duet, Piano, Betty Niquette Arr. Tedd Smith & Don Hustad

* Presentation of Offering

(Tune: We Give Thee But Thine Own) No. 428 verse 2

***May we thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first fruits give.***

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" No. 434

Charge and Benediction

* Sung Congregational response:

No. 540 verse 2

***God be with you till we meet again; Unseen wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.***

Postlude

"Allegretto" Organist, Julie Pulliam
Organ/Piano Duet, Piano, Betty Niquette Arr. Rob Roy Peery

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Linda Johnston

Time with All Ages: Linda Valo

Ushers: Brenda Cavanaugh & Ashley Cress

Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly

Greeter: Eleanor Fowler

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church

9180 W. 38th Avenue Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 • 303-422-2354

info@WRPres.org • www.wrpres.org

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

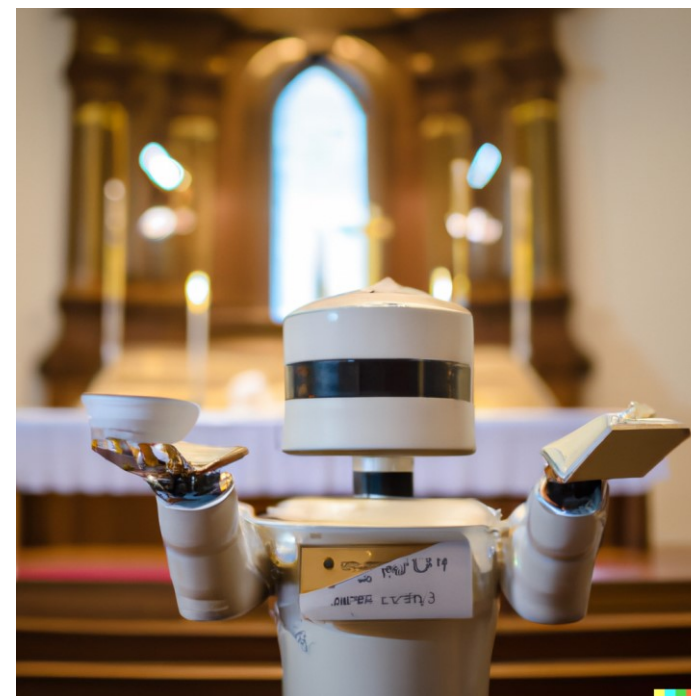
Director of Christian Education, Children & Youth: Linda Valo

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

Choir Director: Betty Niquette

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.*

***February 26, 2023
First Sunday of Lent***