

## 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:**      “All Things Bright and Beautiful”      Organist, Julie Pulliam  
Organ/Piano Duet, Piano, Betty Niquette      Arr. David H. Hegarty

**Welcome**      The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

\* **Call to Worship** (Please stand)      Elder, Jo Ann Flores

As a deer longs for flowing streams

**so our souls long for you, O God.**

Our souls thirst for God, for the living God.

**When shall I come and behold the face of God?**

Let us worship God.

\* **Hymn**      “What A Friend We Have in Jesus”      No. 403

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

As thirsty people wandering through this season of Lent, we seek God’s forgiveness and grace in this moment of honest confession.

**Gracious God, as we wander through the wilderness this Lent,**

**we are more aware of our thirst for your presence,**

**your love, your guidance on life’s journey.**

**Forgive us for turning away from you.**

**Forgive our doubt and uncertainty**

**that led us to place our faith in worldly comforts**

**that don’t run deep enough and don’t last.**

**We come to your well today**

**desperate and thirsty for Christ’s living water.**

**Quench our thirst, we pray.**

**Grant us your forgiveness and your grace. Amen**

*(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

Jesus said, “Those who drink of the water that I will give them

will never be thirsty.” Come, drink deep, and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

## HEARING THE WORD

### **Prayer of Illumination and Scripture Readings**

**Old Testament Reading:**      Psalm 95      Deacon Reader, Marcia Hecox  
The Word of the Lord.      (pgs. 559-560)

**Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music**      “I’m Here (from *The Color Purple*)”      Allee Willis, Brenda Russell,  
”      Singer, Anna Johnston      & Stephen Bray

**Gospel Reading:**      John 4:5-42      The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey  
The Word of the Lord.      (NT pgs.89-90 )

**Thanks be to God.**

**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**      “The Gospel According to the Simpsons”      Rev. Whit Dempsey

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Special Music**      “Abide with Me”  
Ridge Ringers

**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**      “Lonesome Valley”      Organist, Julie Pulliam  
Piano/Organ Duet, Piano, Betty Niquette      Arr. Lani Smith

\* **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**

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

No. 288

**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**

“The Family of God” Organist, Julie Pulliam  
Organ/Piano Duet, Piano, Betty Niquette Arr. Don Hustad

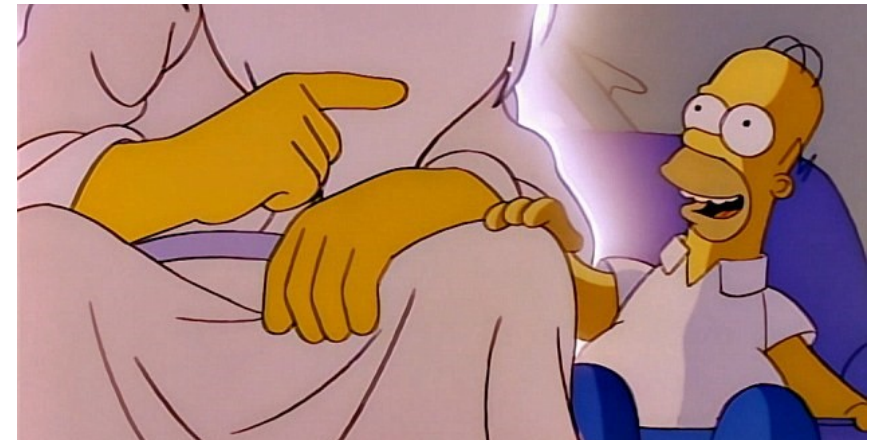
*Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.*

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Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores  
Time with All Ages: Linda Valo  
Ushers: Betsy Smith & Jeff Stimson

Deacon Reader: Marcia Hecox  
Greeters: Joanie & Ron Mickler  
Flowers; Betty & Jim Niquette

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*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.*

***March 12, 2023  
Third Sunday of Lent***

**Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church**

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Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey [pastor@wrpres.org](mailto:pastor@wrpres.org)

Director of Christian Education, Children & Youth: Linda Valo

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

Choir Director: Tony Domenick

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

Administrative Assistant: Jenny Garner