

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:

“God of Our Fathers” Organist, Julie Pulliam
Organ/Piano Duet, Piano, Betty Niquette Arr. Lani Smith

Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey

Call to Worship

Elder, Jo Ann Flores

There is so much we do not understand, so many mysteries in this life of faith.

But some things are certain. We do know:

Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

God is our keeper and our shade.

Let us lift our eyes to God.

* Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” No. 276

Call to Prayer and Prayer for Renewal (Be seated)

Elder

Our help does truly come from God.

This help is not just for the times when trouble befalls us,
or when our lives are hard, but when we are the ones who are to blame,
when we face the consequences of our own actions.

Knowing that, we turn to God for help, trusting in unending grace.

Prayer of Renewal

**Teacher, you call us to go,
following the plan that you have set out for us.
You promise us blessings and purpose, but we do not trust your words.
We cling to what we already know,
we trust in what we can see and touch,
we make excuses for our failure to trust in you.
Call to us again,
that we may be born again through your Spirit.
Help us to believe and give us the abundant life
that comes from following your will.**

(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.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

Whit Dempsey

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Thanks be to God.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination and Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 121

Deacon Reader, Jeanne Miller

Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

The Rev. Dr. Whitney Dempsey
(NT pg. 88)

The Word of the Lord.

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 of John and American Sports” 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

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus” Organist, Julie Pulliam
Organ/Piano 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** "In Christ There Is No East or West" No. 439

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 "March from the Fifth Symphony" Organist, Julie Pulliam
Organ/Piano Duet, Piano, Betty Niquette Beethoven Arr. R. Martin

Please come to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores Deacon Reader: Jeanne Miller
Time with All Ages: Linda Valo Greeter: Joanie Mickle
Ushers: Kerry Gardner & Chuck Miller
Communion: Mick Domenick, Linda Johnston, Jeanne Miller, & Janette Powers

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.

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.*

*Second Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2023*