

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Worship 7:30pm, December 24, 2015

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**

*Please stand if able

PRELUDE *Carol Prelude* Arr. Gail Leven Pollock
Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND CHRIST CANDLE Linda Valo & children of WPC
(As Candle Lighters come up, please sing He Came Down- Tune No. 2085 in STF)
He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love, Hallelujah forevermore.

Christmas Eve: We have watched; we have waited . . .

. . . in hope, (*Light the first candle.*)

. . . for peace, (*Light the second candle.*)

. . . in joy, (*Light the third candle (pink).*)

. . . with love. (*Light the fourth candle.*)

Now our redemption draws near! (*Light the Christ candle (white, center).*)

Glory to God in the highest!

Alleluia! Amen!

CALL TO WORSHIP Laura Sugg

Let us go, just as we are, to see what has happened.

Let us go with the shepherds:

Let us go and find the One of whom the angels sang.

Let us go with those who are wise:

Let us go and find one who brings God's truth to us.

Let us go with the poor in spirit and in flesh;

let us go with those who are humbled by life:

Let us find the Glory of God

born in a stable, and placed in a feeding trough.

Let us go together; let us go with all the children of God:

Let us go and find the One who comes to lead us home to God's kingdom.

O come, let us go to the Babe of Bethlehem!

O come, let us adore Him! Christ our Lord!

*HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful* No. 41
Ridge Ringers

* CHRISTMAS PRAYER (unison) Elder

Let us pray:

**In the silence of these moments,
whisper of your joy which has come into the world this night.**

**In the music and the carols,
sing to us of the grace which fills us this night and in all the days to come.**

**In the words we hear,
speak to us of that Birth which brings new life to each
and every one of your children.**

**In the company of friends and families,
of strangers and new acquaintances,
gather us together so we may be your holy family in this time and place.**

**In the love and hope which is given to us,
send us forth to tell the good news to all for whom this is not the most
wonderful time of the year.**

God in Community, Holy in One, touch us once again with your wonder. Amen.

* GLORIA (See insert) Tune: Gloria No. 23

HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 9:2-7 Pg. 651

ANTHEM *A Christmas Festival* Arr. Ed Lojesky

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20 Pgs. 54-55

TIME FOR CHILDREN (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.**

(After the Time with Children, children are invited to return and sit with their families.

There are toys and books in the basket in the narthex, if needed.)

SERMON *Treasuring all These Words* Laura Sugg

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child.**

The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.

**Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, Jesus brings about the
relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.**

—from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

*HYMN

Away in a Manger

No. 25

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER
(Pray, "Forgive us our sins...")

Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY

O Little Town Of Bethlehem
Ridge Ringers, Will Kitzman, Wind Chimes

Lewis Henry Redner

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

(Verse 3, No. 53)

***So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come one and all, to own Him.
The King of Kings salvation brings; Let Loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him Laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.***

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PETITION

Laura Sugg

God Most High, on this night of joy and wonder, we praise you for the gift of Jesus Christ,

Light in darkness, Savior of the world. Born in lowliness to rule in love.

God Most Gracious, we give you thanks for the memory of all those with whom
we once shared the joys of this season, and for this worship service shared with
sisters and brothers in Christ.

Light in darkness, Savior of the world. You freely give yourself to all.

God Near to Us, look with compassion through the darkness of our world
and lead us by your light. Our world is darkened by war-clouds and by the shadow of hunger.

Come, O Christ, and give us light.

We hurt those who love us and harden our hearts in stubborn pride.

Come, O Christ and give us light.

We hide ourselves from you and from one another and fail to live as the image of your love.

People: Come, O Christ and give us light.

Leader: We try in vain to save ourselves and to put things aright on our own.

People: Come, O Christ and give us light. Amen.

See insert for PASSING THE LIGHT (be seated)

(When the candles are lighted, those already lighted should be held straight up;
unlighted ones should be tipped forward)

HYMN (remain seated)

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

No. 29

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* SUNG REPONSE

Joy to the World, verse 1

No.40

POSTLUDE

Joy To The World!

Arr. Ethel Smith & John Innes

Gloria

**Come to Bethlehem and see: Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee: Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo; glo—ria in excelsis Deo.**

PASSING THE LIGHT

(When the candles are lighted, those already lighted should be held straight up;
unlighted ones should be tipped forward)

HYMN (remain seated)

Silent Night, Holy Night

Tune No. 60

***Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”
Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth,
Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ our Savior is born, Christ our Savior is born.***

Leader: To you is born this day, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

**People: All glory to you, great God, for the gift of you Son, light in darkness
and hope of the world, whom you have sent us to save us.**

**With singing thanks, let us praise your name and tell the earth his story,
That all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, Acknowledging your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(Please extinguish candles and stand to sing, *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*—No. 29)

Return to bulletin



Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores

Ushers: Ralph and Marcia Hecox

Speaker for Children’s Time: Laura Sugg

Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly

Greeters: Nancy Rosi and grandchildren

Sound Engineer: Jim Niquette

The Call to Worship and Christmas Prayer are reprinted from Shuman, Thom © 2013 and 2014 from *Playing Hopscotch in heaven (Year A)* and *Where the Broken Gather: Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year B*. Kindle Edition.

WELCOME VISITORS!

Thank you for worshipping at Wheat Ridge Pres. this morning. **Everyone worshipping here is invited to sign the red friendship pad so your visit is recorded.** If you would like to know more about the life and ministry of this congregation, please include your address, telephone number, and other contact information. Thank you, and know that everyone is welcome at Wheat Ridge!

KIDS’ KINGDOM – Please pick up a children’s bulletin (Ages 3-6 and Ages 7-12) and pack of crayons from the usher. Children are invited to come forward for the “Time for Children” and stay in worship on Christmas Eve.

SERMON PODCASTS — Missed worship? Want to hear a sermon again?

Listen to sermons online at the church website www.wpcpres.org/about-wpc/pastors-sermons/.

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church

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

Choir Director: Kevin Crowe, M.M.

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