

*FESTIVAL OF CAROLS: A Cantata* by Joseph M. Martin**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 *Venite Adoremus* Arr. Roger C. Wilson  
Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Kevin Crowe & the Choir

*(As Candle Lighters come up please sing Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus No. 2 v. 1)*

Advent is a time of wonder—the wonder of the Light of the world.

The first, second, and third Sundays of Advent, we lit the candles of hope, peace, and joy.

On this fourth Sunday of Advent we light this candle for love and we wonder.

**“How can we find love in a world broken and divided by hatred and violence?”**

We light this candle for joy and we wonder,

**“God’s love has found us!”**

We light this candle for love

**and we know the Light of the world illumines our lives with love**

**that we might see and walk the path of justice and peace.**

Arise as God’s people!

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

Look! The young woman is with child;

**she will call him Emmanuel: God is with us.**

Let us worship God.

\* HYMN *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* No. 11

CALL TO PRAYER & PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

In our brokenness, we will find no healing until we turn to the Peace who comes to us.

Let us speak those words which are so hard to say, so we may hear the whispers of God’s mercy.

**With the songs of the angels in our ears, we cannot hear the way we speak words of hurt and anger to others; looking for the shepherds to arrive, we do not see the homeless family by the side of the road; waiting to sit down at a fine feast, we ignore those whose bread is their fear, whose cup is filled with their lost dreams.**

**Come to us, Promised Sign of restoration: come to open our eyes; come to us, Child of compassion: come to melt our hearts with your tears; come to us, Servant of the poor, come to lead us to serve the lost. O come, o come, Immanuel: to forgive us, to heal us, so all that was promised might be fulfilled for us.**

*(A time for silent prayer)*

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE Laura Sugg  
Amen. Dear children of God: do not be afraid. The promise given long ago has been kept once and for all in the birth at Bethlehem. Rejoice, rejoice, for Christ has come for you.

**Grace and peace are the gifts God has given to us, not only on this day, not only in this season, but in all the moments to come. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

\*GLORIA Tune: Gloria No. 23

**Let the nations shout and sing: glory to their Savior bring;  
All below and all above sing your praise with joyous love.  
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo; glo—ria in excelsis Deo.**

**HEARING THE WORD**

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-25 Pg. 1  
The word of the Lord. Deacon

**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM *A Christmas Processional* Arr. Joseph M. Martin  
Ridge Ringers

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.***

REFLECTION Laura Sugg

ANTHEM *Celtic Advent Carol* Joseph M. Martin

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please Stand) The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional)  
Front of Hymnal Pg. 14

\* HYMN *O, Little Town of Bethlehem* No. 44

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16  
*(Pray, “Forgive us our sins...”)*

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *A Christmas Thanksgiving* Joseph M. Martin  
With Choir

\* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING No. 414 v.1.

***As those of old their first fruits brought of vineyard, flock and field  
to God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield.  
So we today our first fruits bring, the wealth of this good land;  
of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand, Amen.***

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Laura Sugg

\* HYMN

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

No. 22

\* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

\* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: (All)



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

*God, Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*  
Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

Arr. Lani Smith

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

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Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores  
Greeters: Allan & Sonia Hills  
Sound Engineer: Jim Niquette  
Flowers: Jeff & Barbara Stimson

Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly  
Ushers: Bill & Karen Powers  
Children's Time: Roxanne Foster

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### Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church

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**Pastor:** *Laura S. Sugg, M.Div., Ph.D.* • [Laura@WRPres.org](mailto:Laura@WRPres.org)  
*Laura at Church: 303-422-2355 • Cell: 720-471-0751*

**Director of Christian Education, Children & Youth:** *Linda Valo*  
**Organist, Hand Bell Choir Director:** *Julie Pulliam, M.A.*

**Choir Director:** *Kevin Crowe, M.M.*

**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.*

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
*December 18, 2016*