

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church
Christmas Eve Worship 3:00 pm, December 24, 2016

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 *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 The Gardner family
(As Candle Lighters come up please sing The First Nowell No. 56 v. 1 & refrain)

Christmas is a time of wonder—the wonder of Jesus; God-with-us;
the Promised One, the light of the world, the Holy One of God.

On this holy night we light the Christ-candle and we wonder,

“Is Jesus really here?”

We light this Christ-candle and we wonder,

“Jesus is really here!”

We light this Christ-candle and we know

**God is with us, the Promised One has come,
the light of the world breaks through the shadows,
the Holy One of God brings peace, hope, love, and joy. Amen!**

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder
There is good news of great joy for all!
Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest,
And peace to God’s people on earth.
Let us worship God.

* HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful* No. 41
(Please come forward and place donations of diapers and wipes near the manger.)

* CHRISTMAS PRAYER Laura Sugg

*GLORIA verse 3 from *Angels We Have Heard on High* No. 23 verse 3

HEARING THE WORD

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:11-14 Pg. 55
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!** Deacon

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

SERMON ***God Is with Us*** Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*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.**

In the person and work of Jesus,

**God and a human life are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.**

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

**Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship between God and
humanity that God always intended. –from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)**

* HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* No. 31

* 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.

Come, O Christ and give us light.

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

Come, O Christ and give us light. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head* Arr. John Innes
Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING *What Child is This?* No. 53 v. 3

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Laura Sugg

ANTHEM & HYMN MEDLEY *Cradle Medley* Arr. Joseph M. Martin

Choir & Ridge Ringers

(Congregation, please join the singing on *Away in a Manger* No. 25 vv. 1 & 3,
O Little Town of Bethlehem No. 44 v. 1, and *Silent Night* No. 60 vv. 1-2)

PASSING THE LIGHT Laura Sugg

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Silent Night No. 60 vv. 1-3

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

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

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

**With singing angels, 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, *Joy to the World!*)

* HYMN *Joy to the World!* No. 40

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* SUNG RESPONSE *Go, Tell it on the Mountain* No. 29
(Refrain only, twice)

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* Arr. John Innes
Organ-Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano

Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly
Greeters: Allan & Sonia Hills Ushers: Ralph & Marcia Hecox
Sound Engineer: Jim Niquette Flowers: People of WPC

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church

9180 W. 38th Avenue Wheat Ridge, CO 80033 • 303-422-2354
Jenny@WRPres.org • www.wpcpres.org

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

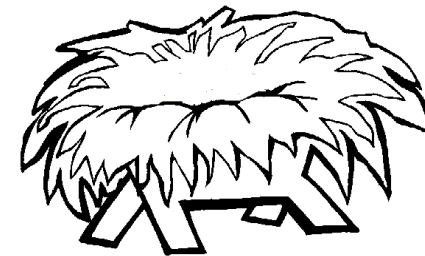
Director of Christian Education, Children & Youth: Linda Valo

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.*

*Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2016*