

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2017

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* Traditional
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Gail Leven Pollack

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (please stand) Laura Sugg
There is good news of great joy for all!
Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.
Light shines on those who live in darkness,
For a child is born to us this night.
Let us worship God.

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES Brandon, Jennifer, Aubrey Powers, and family
(*Candle Lighters come forward during the final verse of the hymn*)

CHRISTMAS PRAYER (Remain seated) Elder
Let us pray,
Holy child of Bethlehem,
you are the hope of the world, the song of the angels,
the treasure of our hearts, and the glory of God among us.
Call us to worship you in the places where your love is born anew:
wherever kindness prevails, justice flourishes, and peace reigns.
Send us out to serve you,
sharing good news of great joy, and praising God through you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE (Stand as desired.) Tune: Bring a Torch
Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on High

HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 9:2-7* Pg. 651, Deacon

ANTHEM *Angels from the Realms of Glory* H. Smart
Laura Wray, violin Arr. Dan Forrest

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Brandon, Jennifer, Aubrey Powers, and family

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH (*As children & youth come forward, please sing.*)

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.

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-20 Pgs.54-55
And the Word became flesh and lived among us. Laura Sugg
Thanks be to God.

HYMN (remain seated) *O Little Town of Bethlehem* No. 44, verses 1-2
Oh little town of Bethlehem, How Still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.
For Christ is born of Mary And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.

SERMON *Light in the Darkness* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Elder
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 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* No.31

* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16
(*Pray, "Forgive us our sins..."*)

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, With Coventry Carol* Arr. Jane McFadden
Jon Stubbs, guitar, Ridge Ringers

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING (Verse 4, No. 22)
All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son;
Ever more your voices raising, to th' eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

* 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 alone.

Come, O Christ and give us light. Amen.

PASSING THE LIGHT (Please be seated. See insert for Silent Night and prayer)

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

* HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

No. 29

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *Joy to the World!* No. 40, Verse 1

***Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.***

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

George Frederick Handel

Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano

Arr. John Innes

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas! Many thanks to all our guest musicians!

Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores

Deacon Reader: Janette Powers

Greeter: Dick Remington

Ushers: Ralph & Marcia Hecox

Sound Engineer: Jim Niquette

Time with Children & Youth: Laura Sugg

Flowers: members and friends of WPC

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church

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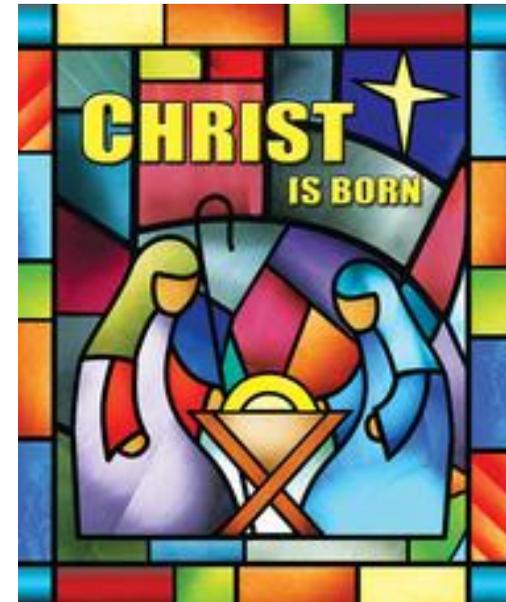
Director of Christian Education, Children & Youth: Linda Valo

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

Choir Director: Katie Sakanai, M.M. Ed.

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
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PASSING THE LIGHT Laura Sugg
(When the candles are lighted, those already lighted should be held straight up;
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HYMN (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.***

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, *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*, No. 29)

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