

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 *I Think When I Read That Sweet Story* Greek melody
Arr. Lawrence Grant

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Today, the words of God come to us, in love,

inviting us to not be afraid, but to place our faith in God.

Today, the word of God comes to us, in faith,

inviting us to trust in the One who knows us,

to place our hope in the One who saves us.

Today, the Word of God comes to us, in hope,

inviting us to be gracious in our love and in our service to others.

* HYMN *Come, Come, Whoever You Are* (see insert)

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

We hide them deep in the closets of our hearts, but God knows our secret failings.

We sit in the shadows of our lives, but God sees the possibility we can become. We

mumble our words, but God bends down to listen and whisper grace and hope to us.

Let us confess to the One who loves us, as we pray together,

So often, God of incredible patience, we must confess that our love is not always what we might hope it would be. We focus so much on ourselves, the needs of others pale in significance. Too often, we find ourselves rejoicing in the miseries of others, believing they must have done something to deserve what comes their way. We continually push our families and friends away from us simply by insisting that everything be done our way.

Faithful Deliverer, forgive us and have mercy on us. As you rescue us from our false selves, may we become your people. As you touch us with faith, may we be witnesses to the world of your dreams. As you pour out hope upon us, may we be your compassion to those who hurt. As you drench us with your love which comes to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, may we be made whole.

(A time for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. God's love never ends! With this good news,

we know we are forgiven; with this blessing, we know that we are healed.

Now, we can bear all things, believe all things,

hope all things, endure all things. Thanks be to God! Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE (Stand as desired)

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

HEARING THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING Song of Solomon 8:6-7 Deacon

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC ***Set Me As A Seal*** by René Clausen

Katie Sakanai, mezzo-soprano

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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.

SERMON ***The Gospel According to Hafiz the Poet*** Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Please stand) Elder

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.**

**The same Spirit
who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the church.**

--from A Brief Statement of Faith (1991)

* HYMN *Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels* No. 531 (see insert)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER (see words to the Lord's Prayer below)

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy Kingdom come,

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread; And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *Something Beautiful* Gloria and William Gaither
Arr. Fred Bock

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING Tune: All Creatures of Our God and King
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, (2x)
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, (5x)***

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* No. 540 (see insert)

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Tune: STF 2223
***We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

POSTLUDE *De Gospel Train* Spiritual

Many thanks to Katie Sakanai for sharing her musical talents this morning!

Please come to Fellowship Hall and join us for refreshments and conversation.

Pulpit Elder: Jo Ann Flores
Greeter: Lori Golightly
Flowers: Candace Tomlinson
Ushers: Ralph & Marcia Hecox

Deacon Reader: Lori Golightly
Sound Engineer: Jim Niquette
Time With Children & Youth: Don Tolin
Visitor Desk: Ariane Meyer

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 Cell: 720-471-0751

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*



*The Gospel According to
Hafiz the Poet*

July 29, 2018