

## 10:00 a.m. Service

### December 3, 2017 – First Sunday in Advent

#### Welcome, Announcements, Minute for Mission

**Prelude** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Richard Purvis

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle (Hope)** Dan and Tami Scace

#### Call to Worship

Leader: O that God would tear open the heavens and come down!

**People: Of that day or hour, no one knows, only God.**

Leader: Be alert! Keep awake!

**People: The time is drawing near: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.**

**Bell Ensemble** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" Burroughs

#### Prayer of the Day (Unison)

God of power unexpected, we want you to tear open the heavens and come down; to make mountains quake, water boil, and stars to fall until all nations tremble at your presence! But you, you will not perform according to our wants and whims. Instead you come like the sound of sheer silence: Thin. Quiet. Instead you are born among us as an infant. Instead you show us how love is made perfect in weakness. So we will stay alert, or at least we will try, because we are your people and there is no other God besides you. Amen.

**\*Hymn No. 276** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

#### Call to Confession

Like a faded, dry leaf that the wind blows away, our sins dry us up; faded and brittle, we are carried off by the wrongs we have done. Yet God loves us still and is able to restore and renew us with the water of life.

#### Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God-with-us, even in Advent, we confess that you can seem far away. You are hidden when we need you near. In our hurt, doubt, and fear, we do not try to draw closer to you; instead, we lash out—against you, our neighbor, even those we love. Forgive us, we pray, and come to save us! Let your face shine until our tears are dried, our sins are faded, and our hope is restored. After all, we belong to you, and in your hands, we can be made new. (*Silent personal prayers may be offered here.*)

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

#### Declaration of Forgiveness

The grace of God, given to us in Christ Jesus, strengthens us to the end so that we may be blameless when Christ comes again. Thanks be to God, who is faithful and has called us into the fellowship of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord!

#### Passing of the Peace

Leader: In forgiveness, we find peace. In that spirit, let us share the peace of the Lord with each other. The Peace of the Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

You are invited to share the peace of Christ with each other.

**Chancel Choir** "Advent Carol" Wood

#### Prayer for Illumination

Gracious God, heaven and earth will pass away, but your words will not pass away: Your Word stands forever. May our generation be attentive so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we remember your ways and gladly do right, meeting you wherever and whenever you appear. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**First Scripture Reading** *Isaiah 64:1-9*

**Second Scripture Reading**                      *Mark 13:24-37*

**Sermon**                                              “Created for a Purpose”

**\*Confession of Faith** (from the Confession of Belhar)

**We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another. This unity must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; and that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another.**

**\*Hymn No. 5**                                      *“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”*

**Offering, Offertory**                              “Once He Came in Blessing”    Wilbur Held  
Bohemian Brethren Carol: *Gottes Sohn ist Kommen*

**\*Doxology No. 592**                              *“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** (Bread is Gluten Free)

    Invitation to the Lord’s Table  
    Great Prayer of Thanksgiving  
    The Lord’s Prayer  
    Breaking of the Bread  
    Communion of the People  
    Prayer After Communion

**\*Hymn No. 20**                                      *“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”*

**Benediction**

**Postlude**                                              Carols of the Season

*You are invited to remain seated until the conclusion of the Postlude.*

\*Please stand if you are able.

\*\*Source for Liturgy is *“Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1”*

## Announcements—December 3

The beautiful poinsettias adorning our church were purchased by those wishing to honor or remember loved ones this holiday season. Thank you to all who contributed.

This afternoon at 3:00 in the Sanctuary the **Estes Valley Chamber Singers**, led by Rich Dixon, will provide some beautiful arrangements of Christmas music, some familiar and some new.

On Sunday, December 10 at 2:00 in the Sanctuary the **Mountain Men** and the **MountainAires**, led by Kasey Troutman and featuring local singers, will present a wonderful mixture of traditional and special Christmas music, guaranteed to brighten your spirits.

A **Congregational Meeting** to elect church officers will be held on Sunday, December 17 following the worship service.



A **Blue Christmas Service** will be held on Thursday, December 21 at 5:00 pm. The idea of Blue Christmas is to have a time of worship and reflection centered around the lighting of the Advent candles with a slightly different focus. This is a time to acknowledge that Christmas isn't always jolly or festive. As we gather in worship, the love and encouragement of our faith and our faith community will surround you.

The **Journeys Class** meets Sunday mornings in the church library. We gather at 8:15 and begin the class at 8:30. On December 10 the lecture is entitled "Suffering and 'The Stranger'" from the current series "What is Religion?" presented by leading biblical scholar, Karen Armstrong. The class strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Please sign the attendance register found at the end of the pew and pass it along to your neighbor. We are glad you are here!

**DID YOU KNOW?** News and announcements are kept current on the website, and are often updated a couple times each week. Check the news block under the map on the website home page. **Web address:** [pccrusa.org](http://pccrusa.org)

**Key Inventory** — If you have a church key(s), please call, email, or drop by the church office with the key number so we can make a current list of keys that have been distributed. Thanks!

**Scripture readings** for Sunday, December 10 are **Isaiah 40:1-11** and **Mark 1:1-8**. You are invited to reflect on these readings during the week.

### Today's Worship Participants

Rev. Michael Moore, Pastor  
Rich Dixon, Chancel Choir Director  
Peter and Lisa Plaut, Greeters

Larry Gillum, Organist  
Karen Daugherty, Liturgist  
Journeys Class, Reception Hosts