



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

December 18, 2022



December 18, 2022 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION

Worship begins with the prelude. Please quiet and prepare yourself for worship. Relax your body; quiet the inner dialogue of your mind; be open and receptive to God's Spirit in our midst.

PRELUDE "Noël: Grand Jeu et Duo" Louis-Claude Daquin

Organist, Larry Gillum

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Bill and Nancy Almond

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Stan Osborne

Liturgist: We look for an extraordinary sign of hope for our world but God's sign is most ordinary of all:

People: A young woman is with child.

Liturgist: We look to power for strength in our world but God points to the most vulnerable:

People: She gives birth.

Liturgist: We look far and wide for a key to God's mystery, but God points us home:

People: She calls this child Immanuel: God-with-us!

Liturgist: Let us rejoice, and worship our God

People: in our ordinary, vulnerable lives: God-with-us!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 20** "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

The Rev. Chris Davis

We confess, O God, in this fourth week of Advent, that we so easily have given into the expectations of people and situations around us. We allowed the times of quiet we promised for you to slip away. Forgive us in our distractions. Help us renew our preparations for your coming. Continue to be with us, O Lord, as we learn to wait with you. Amen.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***RESPONSE** "Gloria Patri" (Hymnal #579)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

A READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 7:10-16

**Please stand if you are able.*

CHANCEL BELLS ANTHEM “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (Hymn 37) arr. Mallory
Director, Patti Dolezal

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18-25*

MESSAGE The Rev. Chris Davis

MEDITATION IN MUSIC

***CONFESSION OF FAITH** (Unison) The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offertory “Cold December’s Winds Were Stilled” Catalonian Carol, Dale Wood

*Doxology (Hymnal #592)

Prayer of Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The congregation responds, “**hear our prayer**”
following each petition which concludes, “God, in your grace...”*

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

(Not merely announcements, but the activities of our life together that reflect our day-to-day responses to God’s call for faithfulness and your invitation to join in!)

***HYMN OF SENDING NO. 25** “Away in a Manger”

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Traditional Carols

The Week Ahead . . .

Monday, December 19

10:00 am — Pastor Nominating Committee

11:00 am — Communications Committee

11:30 am — PW Bible Study

6:00 pm — Ballet Open House

Tuesday, December 20

Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, December 21

4:00 pm — Joyful Bells

5:30 pm — Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 22

4:00 pm — Chancel Bells

6:30 pm — Chancel Choir

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

5:00 pm — Lessons and Carols Service

Sunday, December 25: Christmas Day!

10:00 am — Worship, The Sacrament of Baptism —

The Schweitzer Family (Livestream available)

Church Staff

Interim Pastor: The Rev. Chris Davis,
414-690-4488, pastor@pccrusa.org

Handbell Director: Patti Dolezal,
music@pccrusa.org

Organist: Larry Gillum

Financial Manager: Carolyn Hull,
finance@pccrusa.org

Choir Director: Rich Dixon

Office Administrator: Meredith Ishida,
office@pccrusa.org

Office Hours: Monday through Thurs,
9:00 am to 3:00 pm; closed Fridays

Office Phone: 970-586-4404

Church Website: pccrusa.org

Note: The calendar includes all known church events at time of printing.

Fellowship Time—Join us after worship today for coffee and treats hosted by the Deacons.

PW Circle will meet tomorrow, December 19, for Lesson 4 of the Bible Study book, *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's gift of Rest and Delight*. Betty Meyer will lead the discussion on "Sabbath and Surrender" based on Exodus 16. We will meet in the church Library and on Zoom (link listed in church newsletter). We gather at 11:30 a.m. and the lesson begins at 12 noon. We hope you can join us.



Stewardship—If you have already made a pledge for 2023, thank you for your continued support. If you have not yet decided on your pledge, take a moment to reflect on the importance of our church to you, your family, friends, and the community. Thank you.

Please plan for your December year end giving. Charitable contributions may be claimed in the year that they are delivered to the church, including checks mailed in the appropriate year. Donations made on our website are deductible in the year the donor makes the donation. Our office will be closed Friday, December 23 and the week of December 26-30. We will check mail and make any deposits during this closure.

Prayer Quilt for Maggie and David Pfeiffer's high-risk pregnancy is in the Narthex. Tie a knot and say a prayer for their baby, due in January. They are friends of the Schaffer Family.

If you have prayer requests you'd like to share with the congregation, please contact Pastor Chris at pastor@pccrusa.org, or call 414-690-4488 (cell) or 970-586-4404 (church).

