



In Memory of
Emma Gertrude Hayden



In Memory of
Albert Hayden



In Memory of
Leona V. Church



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

September 17, 2023

16th Sunday After Pentecost

In the New Testament, forgiveness always leads to reconciliation and reconciliation results from mutual experiences of forgiveness. They cannot be separated. Marin Marty

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

"Prelude in G minor"

Gordon Young

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

Tune: *Union Seminary*
Organist, Larry Gillum

INTROIT: CHANCEL BELLS "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" (Larson)

Director, Patti Dolezal

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Kent Meyer

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Bless all that is within us!

Bless his holy name!

Bless, the Lord O my soul!

We lift our hearts in praise for all God has done!

God forgives and God heals!

Bless the Lord O my soul!

Let us worship in thanks and praise!

Celebrate all the work he has done!

*OPENING HYMN NO. 416

"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, we are reminded today of your forgiveness. You love us so much that no matter what kind of mistakes we make, you welcome us back with open arms. As you forgive us, you instruct us to forgive others. We often fail to do this. We turn our minds to believing that we can't hurt others or that our words or actions could not possibly have impacted someone else. Forgive us God and help us be people who forgive one another. In this way, we can live into the fullness of your love.

Silent Prayer of Confession

**Please stand if you are able.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES *Genesis 50:15-21, NRSV*

CHANCEL BELLS ANTHEM "Are Ye Able" Krug

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL *Matthew 18:21-34, NRSV*

MESSAGE "A Forgiving Heart" The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

MEDITATION AND *HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 347 "Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive" DETROIT

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from "The Book of Order" (Unison)

The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation. The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down. The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY "Simple Gifts" (Shaker Hymn) Jon Spang

***DOXOLOGY** (Hymnal # 592)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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. 2169 IN SING THE FAITH** "God, How Can We Forgive"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Early American Trumpet Tune" James Bremner
"Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain" Bohemian Brethren 1544

The Week Ahead

Monday, September 18

11:30 am—Presbyterian Women

6:30 pm—Session

Tuesday, September 19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Wednesday, September 20

12:00 pm—Bible Study

4:00 pm—Joyful Bells

Thursday, September 21

3:00 pm—Columbarium Committee

4:00 pm—Chancel Bells

6:30 pm—Chancel Choir

Friday, September 22

9:30 am—Merry Marthas

Sunday, September 24

8:30 am—Journeys (Online and in-person)

10:00 am—Worship (Livestream available)

See the full church calendar on www.pccrusa.org

Announcements

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

Merry Marthas have been working hard all year to create items that they will donate to the Crossroads Coat Drive. Stop by their display in the Narthex today to admire their beautiful scarves and hats! They won't be here long as they will go to those who need them soon.

PW Circle will meet tomorrow, September 18, in the church library for lesson one in the Bible study book, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. Pat [Waltermire](#) will lead the discussion on "Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter." We gather at 11:30 a.m. and the lesson begins at 12 noon. We hope you can join us.

Jim and Carol [Nussbaumer](#) are off to Malawi to continue their work for Marion Medical Mission. They would love to have the congregation pray for them and the people of Malawi. To learn more and/or sign up to receive a daily devotion, please go to mmmwater.org/about-5

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



**Presbyterian
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