



In Memory of
Emma Gertrude Hayden

In Memory of
Albert Hayden

In Memory of
Leona V. Church



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

September 24, 2023
17th Sunday After Pentecost

"If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough."
— Meister Eckhart (Medieval theologian)

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 for Harpsichord"
"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

J.S. Bach
Tune: *Ellacombe*
Organist, Larry Gillum

*CHORAL INTROIT

Chancel Choir, Director, Rich Dixon

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Patti Dolezal

Give thanks to God!

Let us Call on God's name.

Sing praises to God!

Let us Tell of God's wonderful works.

Seek God and his strength!

Let us Seek God's presence continually!

Remember God's works!

Let us give thanks for the wonderful works he has done!

*OPENING HYMN No. 466

"O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing"

AZMON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious God, We come to prayer today aware of how you have blessed our lives. You offer us your constancy and love even when life is tough. Yet, we often forget to be thankful for you. Instead of living into your hope, we fall into despair. Instead of trusting in your love, we become caught in patterns of hate. Forgive us and help us be people who live lives of gratitude, help us to always seek you and your peace, and help us encourage those who have lost their way.

Silent Prayer of Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE

"Gloria Patri" (Hymnal #579)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Exodus 16:2-15, NRSV

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16, NRSV

**Please stand if you are able.*

JOYFUL BELLS ANTHEM

“Resting in the Lord”

arr. Gramann
Director, Patti Dolezal

MESSAGE

“Gratitude”

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

MEDITATION AND *HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 2036 IN “SING THE FAITH”

“Give Thanks”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from “The Confession of 1967” (Unison)

We believe that God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of his dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. We believe that God has created us for personal relationship in which we may respond to the love of the Creator. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“O Come, and Sing Unto the Lord With Praise and Thankful Voice”

Hymntune: Irish

Dale Wood

***DOXOLOGY**

(Hymnal # 592)

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, We pray today, filled with gratitude, for these gifts to be used for your Kingdom. We are thankful for the ways they will empower people and encourage them to embrace your love. Bit by bit, we can help others overcome poverty, hunger, homelessness, and rejection. We are thankful and humbled that we are called to this service, your mission of love. We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

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. 483**

“Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above”

MIT FREUDEN ZART

***BENEDICTION**

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“In Thee is Gladness”

Hymntune: In Dir Ist Freude

The Week Ahead

Monday, September 25

9:30 am—Membership and Hospitality

Wednesday, September 27

4:00 pm—Joyful Bells

Thursday, September 28

4:00 pm—Chancel Bells

6:30 pm—Chancel Choir

Sunday, October 1

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 Chancel Bells.

Wednesday Bible Study Cancelled—Pastor Christine will be away at a conference for part of this week and there will be no Bible Study on Wednesday, September 27.

World Communion Sunday—Next Sunday, October 1st is World Communion Sunday. We will be participating in this event with a selection of global hymns and anthems. Additionally, next Sunday marks our return to a more traditional (pre-Covid) form of Communion. There will still be prepacked wafers and juice for those who choose. Come join us for this special service!

Membership Information Discussion—Are you curious about what it means to be a community church, about our heritage in the PCUSA, and about how we live and serve God? On October 8, after worship, please join us for a light lunch, fellowship, and a question-and-answer session. This session is intended for prospective church members but all are welcome. Contact the office if you are interested.

We are looking for a few people who are willing to be Small Group Leaders for an Advent Study starting in November. We will be studying Walter Brueggemann's [Names For the Messiah](#). You choose the time and place, and Pastor Christine will provide the framework and support. Contact the church office if you are willing to lead. Sign-ups for non-leading participants will be offered later.

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
Community Church
of the Rockies**

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Office hours 9:00-3:00, Monday-Thursday