





Presbyterian  
Community Church  
of the Rockies



December 17, 2023  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
Lighting the Candle of Joy

*"Mary, did you know that your baby boy is the Lord of all Creation?" Mary Lowry*

### 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 Provençal"  
"Noël, Ancient French Air"

Clokey  
Balbastre  
Organist, Larry Gillum

### CHORAL INTROIT

### WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Chuck and Dale Bonza

## We Light this Candle

Words by J. Richard Dixon

Music by J. Richard Dixon

We light this can-dle of Peace to-day and pre-pare to wel-come the light of the world. We  
light this can - dle to pre - pare the way for God's on - ly Son our Lord Je - sus Christ.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Patti Dolezal

The spirit of the Lord God is upon us.

**The Lord is bringing good news.**

The Lord our God loves justice and shows compassion.

**The Lord our God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up.**

We will greatly rejoice in the Lord.

**With our whole beings we give praise to God.**

### \*OPENING HYMN NO. 309

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of forgiveness. Today we are called to have joy in our hearts for the promise of Jesus' birth. We hear the Christmas carols around us and see the colors of the season. Yet, we find ourselves angry and fearful. We become caught up in human pettiness instead of filled with wonder. We find ourselves exhausted from the busyness of life. God, forgive us and help us calm our hearts that we might live into your joy that is uniquely in Christ Jesus. Amen.

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.*

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, NRSV*

### CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

“Carol of the Advent”

Dietterich  
Director, Rich Dixon

### A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

*Luke 1:46b-55, NRSV*

### MESSAGE

“What To Expect When We’re Expecting”

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

### MEDITATION AND \*HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 48

“Lo How A Rose E’er Blooming”

Es IST EIN’ Ros’

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

“O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is”

Paul Manz

### \*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 (Unison)

God of Joy, We offer these gifts today as we await the birth of Christ Jesus. Despite the challenges in the world, we are optimistic that these gifts will make a difference in the lives of those in need. We pray that they may bring a smile to people who was once without hope, and that they may now live into the season of promise. Amen.

## 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. 36

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

CRANHAM

### \*BENEDICTION

### CHORAL RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

Carols of the Season

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

## ***The Week Ahead***

### **Monday, December 18**

11:00 am—Presbyterian Women

4:00 pm—Sign Choir

6:30 pm—Session

### **Tuesday, December 19: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

2:00 pm—Advent Study Group #1

### **Wednesday, December 20**

10:00 am—Advent Study Group #2

4:00 pm—Joyful Bells

6:30 pm—Advent Study Group #3

### **Thursday, December 21**

3:00 pm—Columbarium Committee

4:00 pm—Chancel Bells

5:00 pm—Blue Christmas

6:30 pm—Chancel Choir

### **Sunday, December 24**

8:15 am—Adult Sunday School

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

10:00 am—Worship (Livestream available)

5:00 pm—Christmas Eve Worship

See the full church calendar on [www.pccrusa.org](http://www.pccrusa.org)

### **Church Staff**

**Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, [pastor@pccrusa.org](mailto:pastor@pccrusa.org)

**Office Administrator:** Meredith Ishida, [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org)

**Financial Manager:** Carolyn Hull, [finance@pccrusa.org](mailto:finance@pccrusa.org)

**Handbell Director:** Patti Dolezal, [music@pccrusa.org](mailto:music@pccrusa.org)

**Organist:** Larry Gillum

**Choir Director:** Rich Dixon

### **Elders**

Jan Boatman • Dot Rohrbaugh • Sue Yowell • Jim Nussbaumer  
Bill Solms • Pat Waltermire • Nancy Almond • Curtis Fox • Judy  
Schaffer • Steve Wilson • Clerk of Session: Barb Cole

### **Deacons**

Sharyn Gartner • Carol Pearson • Tami Scace • Robert Sherrod  
Bill Almond • Mimi Hardendorf • Diane Palmer • Bonnie  
Vanderveen • Kelley Anderson • Chuck Bonza • Deborah Webb

## ***Announcements***

**Congregational Meeting and Fellowship Time**—We will be holding a meeting to elect officers directly following worship. After that, join us in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and treats, hosted by Grace and Grub.

**PW Bible study** will meet tomorrow, December 18, in the church library for lesson four in the Bible study book, Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts. Betty Meyer will lead the discussion on "Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus." We will gather at 11:30 a.m. and the lesson will begin at 12 noon. The Bible study is open to all women of the church. We hope you can join us.

You don't need to be in the bell choir to ring a bell outside Safeway! **Crossroads is looking for volunteers** to assist with bell-ringing in their annual Christmas solicitation for monetary donations. If you could spend a couple of hours standing outside, ringing a bell, and greeting your community members, please contact the church office or call Crossroads Ministry at (970) 577-0610.

**Blue Christmas**—On Thursday, December 21 at 5 pm, PCCR will hold a Blue Christmas Service. On the shortest day of the year, we come together for a chance to reflect and remember. It is sometimes hard to be filled with joy when we carry heavy burdens in our hearts. On this night, we can meditate, pray, and perhaps grieve in a quiet, simple space.

**Please plan for your December year end giving.** Charitable contributions may be claimed in the year that they are delivered to our 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 22. We will be working from home the week of December 25-29. We will check mail and make any deposits during this time.

**Christmas Eve Service**—On Sunday, December 24, PCCR will hold a candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5 pm. Please come, and invite your family and friends for this poignant time of worship. The Membership and Hospitality Committee will serve hot chocolate and cookies in the Fellowship Hall afterwards!



**Presbyterian  
Community Church  
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