





Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies



December 24, 2023
4th Sunday of Advent
Lighting the Candle of Love

"The incarnation we celebrate at Christmas is the gift of hope given to you and to me. It is a hope grounded not in ourselves or our own goodness or our own potential, but rather in God's goodness and God's potential for us."
—Tracy S. Daub (Presbyterian Pastor and writer)

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 "Fanfare on "Hark, the Herald Angels"
"Variations on an Ancient Noël" Alec Wyton
Rogues
Organist, Larry Gillum

CHORAL INTROIT

WELCOME The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE ("WE LIGHT THIS CANDLE") Stan and Judy Schaffer

Words by J. Richard Dixon

Music by J. Richard Dixon

We light this can-dle of Love 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

God, you are our the Rock of our Salvation.
Let us sing Alleluia.
God you are faithful to all generations.
Let us sing of your unending love.
God your love is the foundation of our lives.
Let us sing your faithfulness to all generations.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 9** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, Today we are reminded of the constancy of your love. You are present when we have turned our backs on you. You love us when we have made choices that do not honor you. You forgive us when we feel as if we are unworthy of your pardon. Forgive us for not trusting in your constant love. Help us follow the path of love that you showed to us through Jesus Christ. Let us practice the acts of gentleness, kindness, and generosity as a sign of the love that you instilled in us.

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 9:2-7, NRSV

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

“Watchman, Tell Us of The Night”

Gill

Director, Rich Dixon

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-14, NRSV

MESSAGE

“God is Doing Stuff”

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

MEDITATION AND *HYMN OF THE DAY No. 49

“Once In Royal David’s City”

IRBY

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Once He Came in Blessing”

Wilbur Held

***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)

Loving God, We celebrate in these offerings the hope and joy that you have instilled in our hearts. We pray that these gifts spread your love to all people. May those who are heavy of heart feel touched by your presence. May those who are struggling around the world find hope in your generosity. God, let us give thanks for all these gifts and the all the acts of kindness that stem from your works of love in us. Amen.

PCCR BELLS ANTHEM

“The First Noël”

Moklebust

Director, Patti Dolezal

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. 23**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

GLORIA

***BENEDICTION**

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Carols of the Season

**Please stand if you are able.*

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 25: OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, December 31

10:00 am— Worship (Livestream available)

See the full church calendar on www.pccrusa.org

The Church will be closed on Monday, December 25 as it is a Federal Holiday. On December 26, 27, and 28, church staff will be working from home. The church will be locked and office phone calls will not be answered. Please contact us via email or cell phone during this time

Church Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, pastor@pccrusa.org

Office Administrator: Meredith Ishida, office@pccrusa.org

Financial Manager: Carolyn Hull, finance@pccrusa.org

Handbell Director: Patti Dolezal, 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

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

Christmas Eve Service—This afternoon at 5 pm, PCCR will hold a candlelight Christmas Eve Service. 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!

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 January 28, after worship, please join us for 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.

When life gets a little complicated, can the Deacons on the Sunshine Committee help? We would be happy to supply meals to our PCCR family who are experiencing a few clouds in their life. Please contact the office or Pastor Christine if you or someone you know would like some sunshine!

Passing the Peace—From the Worship and Music Committee: Let us greet one another! And let us respect one another's unique needs and desires. As we pass the peace in worship, reach out in greeting to shake hands if you are comfortable doing so. If that does not feel right for you for any reason, feel free to wave, extend an elbow, or place your hands over your heart to indicate that you would like some space today.

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).



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1700 Brodie Avenue, Estes Park, CO 80517
Website www.pccrusa.org
Phone 970-586-4404
E-mail office@pccrusa.org
Office hours 9:00-3:00, Monday-Thursday