





Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies

December 31st, 2023
1st Sunday of Christmas

"Christmas Day is in our grasp, as long as we have hands to clasp! Christmas Day will always be, just as long, as we have we! Welcome Christmas while we stand, heart to heart, and hand in hand!" –Dr. Seuss

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

"In dulci jubilo"

J.S. Bach

Organist, Isaac Johnson

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist, Patti Dolezal

There is good news of great joy for all!

Alleluia! Christ is born!

The grace of God has come to us!

Alleluia! Christ is born!

Light shines on us once again!

Alleluia! Christ is born!

Let us sing Alleluia to the newborn king!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 31**

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of grace, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to the work of Christ in our midst, expecting little. Forgive us and renew our hearts to live into the hope that is uniquely in Christ the Lord.

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 61:10-11, CEB

*HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 21

"All My Heart Today Rejoices"

WARRUM SOLLT' ICH

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-38, NRSV

MESSAGE

"Pure Joy"

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)

The Nicene Creed - See Insert

*HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 25

"Away In the Manger"

MUELLER

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

"Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen"

Johannes Brahms

*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 love, We pray in thanksgiving for these gifts that they might bring joy to those in need. As we think about welcoming baby Jesus once again, we are excited to see how these gifts will change not only circumstances but hearts. God let these gifts be a beacon of hope and a path to your joy. In Jesus' name, 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. 29

"Go, Tell It On The Mountain"

GO TELL IT

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Noel X"

Louis-Claude Daquin

**Please stand if you are able.*

The Week Ahead

Monday, January 1:

Happy New Year! Church Closed

Wednesday, January 3

4:00 pm—Joyful Bells

Thursday, January 4

4:00 pm—Chancel Bells

6:30 pm—Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 7

8:15 am—Adult Sunday School

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

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).

Cover Art: Milan, Lombardy, Italy: interior of the Santa Maria delle Grazie church: Nativity, painting of 18th century by Costantino Pasqualotto

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 Rohrbach • Sue Yowell • Jim Nussbaumer
Bill Solms • Pat Waltemire • Nancy Almond • Curtis Fox • Judy Schaffer • Steve Wilson • Clerk of Session: Barb Cole

Deacons

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



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