



Be On Guard

December 1, 2024

1st Sunday of Advent—Lighting the Candle of Hope

“A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes—and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

“Come, Thou Savior of the Nations”

J. S. Bach

Organist, Jill Hunt

CHORAL INTROIT

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (“WE LIGHT THIS CANDLE”)

Dave and Susan Landers

Words by J. Richard Dixon

Music by J. Richard Dixon

Soprano

We light this can-dle of Hope 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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 8/8 time. The first staff is for Soprano and includes the lyrics: "We light this can-dle of Hope to-day and pre-pare to wel-come the light of the world. We". The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "light this can - dle to pre - pare the way for God's on - ly Son our Lord Je - sus Christ."

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 25)

Liturgist, Patti Dolezal

O God, we lift up our souls to you!

In you we trust!

O God, make us to know your ways.

In you we trust!

O God, lead us in your truth.

In you we trust!

O teach us in your humility.

In you we trust!

O God let us praise you!

In you we trust!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 9**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Gracious God, today we light the candle of hope! But we confess that we have caused many people to feel hopeless. We have overlooked their cry of hunger, their fear of violence, and their plea for friendship. Forgive us, God. Help us listen to the voices of those in need and respond with the radical love that you give to us.

Silent Prayer of Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***RESPONSE: JESUS, CHOSEN HOLY ONE**

Jesus, Chosen Holy One

Je - sus, Chos - en Hol - y one. For our sins, Thy vic - tory won.

5
Now our hearts are free to love, as God for - gives from Heav'n a - bove.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13, NRSV

CHANCEL CHOIR

"Advent Carol"

Wood
Director, Rich Dixon

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36, NRSV

MESSAGE

"Be on Guard"

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

MEDITATION AND *HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 92 (GLORY TO GOD) SEE FOLLOWING PAGES

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

arr. John Ferguson

***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**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

CHORAL RESPONSE

COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this banquet as we seek to serve you. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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. 5**

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

(please remain standing)

POSTLUDE

Tocatta on "Veni Emmanuel"

Andrew Carter

**Please stand if you are able.*

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 2

1:00pm Membership Committee
3:30pm Ballet Renaissance

Tuesday, December 3

12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group
6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers

Wednesday, December 4

12:00pm Bible Study with the Pastor
1:00pm The Good Grief Group
3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 70449
4:00pm Joyful Bells
5:00pm Advent Study Group with Mike Dempsey
5:30pm Estes Park Chorale Quartet
6:30pm Estes Park Chorale

Thursday, December 5

10:00am Advent Study Group with Kent & Betty Meyer
4:00pm Chancel Bells
5:00pm EVICS Group
6:30pm Chancel Choir
6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group

Friday, December 6

3:30pm Ballet Renaissance

Saturday, December 7

10:00am Grace and Grub Christmas Brunch
2:00pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8

8:15am Adult Sunday School
8:30am Journeys
10:00am Worship and Congregational Meeting

See the full church calendar on www.pccrusa.org

Announcements

Greeters this morning are Lisa and Peter Plaut.

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

The Estes Valley Chamber Singers directed by Rich Dixon, along with Larry Gillum, Patti Dolezal with the PCCR Bell Choirs, and the Highland Brass will be presenting their **Christmas Concert** on Saturday, December 7th in our church sanctuary at 2:00pm. Come experience the music of the season.

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine—Join Pastor Christine on December 4th at 12:00 noon in the Library as she continues “Looking at the Covenants—The Beginning” series with The Prophets—Guardians of the Covenant. All are welcome!

Nominees for 2025 Church Officers—Here is the list of nominees to be voted on and elected at the December 8th Congregational Meeting following the worship service. Elders: Duane Miller, Mark Richards, Mimi Hardendorf and Jennifer Workman. Deacons: John Davis, Larry Pierce, Patti Dolezal and Marilyn Irwin. Nominating Committee: Grace Stephen, member at large.

Sunday Morning Adult Study Group: “O Come Emmanuel”-A Musical Tour of...Readings for Advent and Christmas—Join Carol Nussbaumer at 8:15am in the Lounge on December 8th for this informative study series. This week's topic is “Thou Whose Almighty Word” (Words John Marriott 1780-1825; Music MOSCOW, adapted from Felice Giardini 1716-96) Scripture: Luke 12:35-38

Upcoming Services:

Blue Christmas Service—Wednesday, December 18th at 5:00pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00pm

Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies is a welcoming community united by faith in Jesus Christ; We seek to serve others, share God's love, and engage all people.

Church Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey, pastor@pccrusa.org
Office Administrator: Brenda Dixon, 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

Jim Nussbaumer • Bill Solms • Pat Waltermire • Sue Yowell
Nancy Almond • Curtis Fox • Judy Schaffer • Steve Wilson
Terry Brigham • Dennis Jacobs • Jim Jonell • Kent Meyer
Clerk of Session: Barb Cole

Deacons

Bill Almond • Mimi Hardendorf • Diane Palmer • Bonnie Vanderveen • Kelley Anderson • Chuck Bonza
Deborah Webb • Chuck Slicker • Mike Dempsey
Brenda Gillum • Jack Holmquist • Joanie Kleckner



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies



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