



Preparing the Way

December 8, 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent—Lighting the Candle of Peace

“It seems that human beings cannot see what they are not readied to see. We cannot hear what we have not been prepared to hear. The “obvious” seems to have little correlation with our acceptance of it. We all have an amazing capacity for missing the point.”

— Richard Rohr

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

Four Variants on “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Schulz-Widmar

1. Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
2. King of Kings, Yet Born to Mary
3. Rank on Rank the Host of Heaven
4. At His Feet the Six-Winged Seraph

Organist, Larry Gillum

CHORAL INTROIT

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

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

Brian & Carol Rood

Words by J. Richard Dixon

Music by J. Richard Dixon

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn "We Light This Candle". The first staff is in 6/8 time and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "We light this can-dle of Peace to-day and pre-pare to wel-come the light of the world. We". The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics: "light this can - dle to pre - pare the way for God's on - ly Son our Lord Je - sus Christ." The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with a key signature of one flat (Bb).

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Patti Dolezal

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem

And for the Prince of Peace to rule our hearts and world.

Let us worship God together.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 409**

"Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Merciful God, today we light the candle of peace! We confess that we have sometimes assumed that conflict would overtake us. Instead of trusting in you, we have turned to despair. We have looked for help in the wrong places and have sought quick fixes from those with money and power. Forgive us, God. Let us listen to the voice crying in the wilderness and help us prepare for the coming of Christ.

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.
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

Malachi 3:1-4, NRSV

CHANCEL CHOIR

"How Shall We Know Him"

Martin
Director, Rich Dixon

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:67-79, NRSV

MESSAGE

"Preparing the Way"

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

MEDITATION AND *HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 15

"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

MOMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP

Curtis Fox

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

"From Heaven Above to Earth" (*Vom Himmel Hoch*)

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**

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. 36**

"In the Bleak Mid-Winter"

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

(please remain standing)

POSTLUDE

Carols of the Season

arr. Gillum

**Please stand if you are able.*



Immediately following the service will be a brief Congregational Meeting to elect new officers and approve the 2025 Terms of Call for Pastor Christine Dempsey.



Blue Christmas

**Wednesday, December 18th
5:00pm**

A quiet, reflective service for those of us who are grieving, lonely, sad, not feeling particularly festive or just in need of a time of quiet in the busyness of the season.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Tuesday, December 24th
5:00pm**

Hear the story of the birth of Jesus through
scripture, carols, choir, bells
& organ

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 9

9:30am Hospitality Christmas Brunch at Diane Palmer's House
9:30am Finance Committee
3:30pm Ballet Renaissance
4:00pm Acoustic Music Gathering

Tuesday, December 10

9:00am Personnel Committee
10:00am Building and Grounds Committee
12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group
3:00pm Worship and Music Committee
4:30pm Deacons

Wednesday, December 11

10:30am Mission and Outreach Committee
12:00pm Bible Study with the Pastor
3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 70449
4:00pm Joyful Bells
5:00pm Advent Study Group with Mike Dempsey
5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 70455/77784

Thursday, December 12

8:30am EPNRC Board Meeting
10:00am Advent Study Group with Kent & Betty Meyer at the Meyers
3:00pm Journeys Inner Work Group
4:00pm Chancel Bells
5:00pm EVICS Group
6:30pm Chancel Choir
6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group

Friday, December 13

3:30pm Ballet Renaissance
6:00pm Estes Park Chorale Rehearsal

Saturday, December 14

9:30am Card-Making Group
2:00pm Estes Park Chorale Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 15

CROSSROADS COLLECTION

8:15am Adult Sunday School
8:30am Journeys
10:00am Worship
11:00am Membership Information Discussion

See the full church calendar on www.pccrusa.org

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.

Announcements

Greeters this morning are Evelyn & Steve Wilson.

Fellowship Time—Join us after worship today for coffee and treats hosted by Grace and Grub.

“Just Coffee” is for sale in the Narthex today, thanks to the Mission and Outreach Committee. For \$12 you may purchase ground or beans, regular, decaf, or half and half. Porch delivery is always available.

The Estes Park Chorale will be presenting their Christmas Concert on Saturday, December 14th in our church sanctuary at 2:00pm.

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine—Join Pastor Christine on December 11th at 12:00 noon in the Library as she continues “Looking at the Covenants—The Beginning” series with *The Exiles Return*. Scriptures: Isaiah 42-43. All are welcome!

Crossroads Ministry provides basic human services to our neighbors in the Estes Valley. Let’s help

Crossroads practice practical Christian love to over 300 families by donating to the Crossroads Market. This month, the **CROSSROADS GROCERY CART will be in the Narthex on Sunday, December 15.**

Especially needed items are canned pinto beans, hearty soups and paper towels. Remember; you’re giving a hand up, not a hand out, to someone in need!

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 15th for this informative study series. This weeks topic is “This is the Truth Sent From Above” (Words & music English Traditional) Scripture: Genesis 2:7, 15-18, 21-25

Welcome Discussion: Information about Membership/Participation—On December 15th after worship, you are welcome to join us for an informal conversation about membership at PCCR. We will start with a bit of fellowship and then move into a time of questions and answers. You are welcome to join us if you are a full time resident or an occasional visitor. **Please contact the church office at 970-586-4404 or office@pccrusa.org with any questions**

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



Donate!

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