



Are you ready for the Good News?

December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent—Lighting the Candle of Joy

“Joy is the most important Christian emotion. Duty calls only when gratitude fails to prompt.”

— William Sloan Coffin

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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Sharon Elery Rogers
Organist, Larry Gillum

CHORAL INTROIT

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

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

Amy & Curtis Fox, with their elves

Words by J. Richard Dixon

Music by J. Richard Dixon

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 6/8 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature of 6/8. The melody is written on a five-line staff with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are: "We light this can-dle of Joy 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." The music ends with a double bar line.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Patti Dolezal

We come from a world of darkness

Into Christ’s world of light.

We come from a world of weariness

Into God’s strength and hope.

We come from a slumbering world.

Strengthened by the spirit, we come to awaken our souls, to watch for the coming of Christ.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 2

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Today we light the candle of joy! But we admit that we forget to seek joy in our lives. Instead of looking for the laughter, celebrating blessed memories and cherishing dear friendships, we focus on anger and ugliness. God, forgive us. Help us to respond to the world as your people baptized with the spirit and living into the promise that is in Christ Jesus.

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL *Luke 3:7-18, NRSV*

CHANCEL CHOIR "Come, Lord, and Be With Us Today" Stanford/Wagner
Director, Rich Dixon

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES *Philippians 4:4-7, NRSV*

MESSAGE "Are you ready for the Good News?" The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

PRAYER

MEDITATION—PCCR BELLS "Mary Did You Know?" Schrader
Jeff Lindberg, soloist Director, Patti Dolezal

MOMENT FOR MISSION Carol Nussbaumer

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY "What Child is This" Richard Purvis

***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. 110 (GLORY TO GOD) SEE FOLLOWING PAGES** "Love Will Come"

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

(please remain standing)

POSTLUDE

Carols of the Season

arr. Gillum

**Please stand if you are able.*





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 16

11:30am Presbyterian Women's Bible Study
3:30pm Ballet Renaissance
6:30pm Session

Tuesday, December 17 Newsletter Deadline

12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group
5:00pm Stephen Ministers at Mama Rose's
5:30pm The Learning Place Family Café

Wednesday, December 18

12:00pm Bible Study with the Pastor
1:00pm The Good Grief Group
3:00pm Girl Scout Troop 70449
4:00pm Joyful Bells
4:00pm Advent Study Group with Mike Dempsey
5:00pm Blue Christmas Service

Thursday, December 19

10:00am Advent Study Group with Kent & Betty Meyer at the Meyers
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance Rehearsal
3:00pm Columbarium Committee
4:00pm Chancel Bells
5:00pm EVICS Group
6:30pm Chancel Choir
6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group

Friday, December 20

5:30pm Ballet Renaissance Christmas Program

Sunday, December 22

8:15am Adult Sunday School
8:30am Journeys
10:00am Worship/New Member Installation

Please note: The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 & Thursday, December 26 for the Christmas holiday.

See the full church calendar on www.pccrusa.org

Announcements

Greeters this morning are Judy & Stan Schaffer.

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

Donations for **Crossroads Market** will be collected today. Please place your items in the cart located in the Narthex.

The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will meet tomorrow, December 16, in the church library to discuss lesson 4 in the Horizons Bible study book, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. Lisa Plaut will lead the discussion on "Water Justice." We gather at 11:30am and the lesson begins at 12 noon. We hope you can join us.

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine—Join Pastor Christine on December 18th at 12:00 noon in the Library as she continues "Looking at the Covenants—The Beginning" series with *the New Covenant of Christ*. All are welcome!

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 22nd for this informative study series. This weeks topic is "Masters In This Hall" (Words William Morris 1834-96; Music French Traditional) Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Welcome Discussion: Information about Membership/Participation—Following our worship service today, 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.**

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).

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.



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies



Donate!

Church Staff

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

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