



*Leaping for Joy*

December 22, 2024

## 4th Sunday of Advent—Lighting the Candle of Love

*“He who loves God without faith reflects upon himself, he who loves God believingly reflects upon God.”*

— Søren Kierkegaard

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### 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

“Good Christians All, Rejoice” (*In Dulci Jubilo*)

Wilbur Held

Organist, Larry Gillum

### CHORAL INTROIT

### WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

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

Sue, Justin, Ebonie, Ivy & Jasper Yowell

Words by J. Richard Dixon

Music by J. Richard Dixon

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "We light this can-dle of Love to-day and pre-pare to wel-come the light of the world. We". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "light this can - dle to pre - pare the way for God's on - ly Son our Lord Je - sus Christ." The lyrics are written below the notes.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Patti Dolezal

Mighty God, creator of the world,

***Break through all that keeps us from you.***

We ask, in your mercy, to shape us in your image.

***This Advent, visit us with your hope, peace, joy and love.***

### \*OPENING HYMN NO. 8

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

*Merciful God, today we light the candle of love! But we admit that we fail to acknowledge the love we receive from you. Instead of accepting that we are worthy of love, we look for all the reasons that we should not be loved. Forgive us God and help us accept the love that you have for us. This love is so great that you sent Jesus to us, to live among us and die for us. It is perfect love. And, when we accept your love for us, we can reach out to others so all the world can see.*

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**

<b>BELL ENSEMBLE</b>	"People, Look East"	Krug
<b>A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES</b>	<i>Micah 5:2-5, CEB</i>	
<b>CHANCEL CHOIR</b>	"Gabriel's Message"	Phillips Director, Rich Dixon
<b>A READING FROM THE GOSPEL</b>	<i>Luke 1:39-45, NRSV</i>	
<b>MESSAGE</b>	"Leaping for Joy"	The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey
<b>PRAYER</b>		
<b>MEDITATION AND *HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 2095 (SING THE FAITH)</b>	"Star Child" verses 1,2 & 5	
<b>MOMENT FOR MISSION</b>		Carol Nussbaumer
<b>OFFERING OUR GIFTS</b>		
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	"O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is"	Paul Manz

**\*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** (See following page) "Still, Still, Still"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

*(please remain standing)*

**POSTLUDE**

Carols of the Season

arr. Gillum

*\*Please stand if you are able.*





## Announcements

**Greeters this morning** are Fran and Dick Gabrielson.

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

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**—Hear the story of the birth of Jesus through scripture, carols, choir, bells & organ at 5:00pm on Tuesday, December 24th. Join the Hospitality Committee for hot chocolate and cookies following the service.

**Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine** will not meet on December 25 or January 1 due to the holidays. Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, January 8th at noon in the Library. See you then!

**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 29th for this informative study series. This weeks topic is "The Childhood of Christ" (Words & music Hector Berlioz 1803-69) Scripture: Matthew 2: 13-15

Did you know that PCCR has donated over 900 pounds of food and other essential items to the **Crossroads Market** in 2024? This is an amazing accomplishment and a BIG thank you to all who help fill the shopping cart each month. Wouldn't it be great if we could reach the 1,000 pound mark? We will have the shopping cart in the Narthex this morning and next Sunday the 29th to collect your donations. Let's reach our goal and help make the season special for those in need.

**If you have prayer requests** you'd like to share with the congregation, please contact Pastor Christine at [pastor@pccrusa.org](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@pccrusa.org)  
**Office Administrator:** Brenda Dixon, [office@pccrusa.org](mailto:office@pccrusa.org)  
**Financial Manager:** Carolyn Hull, [finance@pccrusa.org](mailto:finance@pccrusa.org)  
**Handbell Director:** Patti Dolezal, [music@pccrusa.org](mailto: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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Office hours 9:00-3:00, Monday-Thursday

## ***The Week Ahead***

### **Monday, December 23**

3:30pm Ballet Renaissance

### **Tuesday, December 24**

12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group

5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### **Wednesday, December 25**

Christmas Day—Church Office Closed

### **Thursday, December 26**

Church Office Closed

6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group

### **Sunday, December 29**

8:15am Adult Sunday School

10:00am Worship

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](http://www.pccrusa.org)*

