



# Entering Hope

Nativity courtesy of Randy & Terry Brigham

December 7, 2025  
2nd Sunday of Advent

*"Mark reminds us, hope is to be found in the manger only because it is found first on the cross."*

— Cynthia M. Campbell

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**TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION**

**PRELUDE** "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" *Vom Himmel Hoch* Sigfrid Karg-Elert  
Organist, Larry Gillum

**CHORAL INTROIT**

**WELCOME** The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

**\*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.*

**ENTRANCE OF THE ADVENT FLAME**

Grace Stephen

Words by J. Richard Dixon

Music by J. Richard Dixon

Soprano



We bring this can-dle of Peace to-day and pre-pare to wel-come the light of the world. We  
bring this can - dle to pre - pare the way for God's on - ly Son our Lord Je - sus Christ.

**\*OPENING HYMN NO. 97**

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Merciful God, we pray today awaiting the coming of the Prince of Peace. We live in a time where division and strife are the norm, and we stand by idly. Forgive us for our inaction in being agents of your love. Help us choose words and take actions that bring reconciliation. Let us always look for solutions that honor your creation.*

### Silent Prayer of Confession

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**\*RESPONSE:** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

**A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE** *Isaiah 11:1-12, NRSV*

**BELL CHOIR** "I Wonder As I Wander" Michael Helman  
(printing of the words on the back cover) Director, Patti Dolezal

**A READING FROM THE GOSPEL** *Mark 1:1, NRSV*

<b>MESSAGE</b>	<i>"Entering Hope"</i>	The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey
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**MEDITATION AND \*HYMN OF THE DAY No. 129**      “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

## OFFERING OUR GIFTS

**OFFERTORY**                      “Once He Came in Blessing”                      Wilbur Held

**\*DOXOLOGY** (Hymnal # 606)

***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

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts:

***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

VENI EMMANUEL:

## Come, Come Emmanuel 91

Come, come Em-man-u-el. Come, Em-

man-u-el. man-u-el.

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

*The congregation responds, "Come Lord Jesus."*

*Following each petition which concludes, "We pray together..."*

### 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 of grace and peace, as you have shared your life with us through the child in the manger and this simple meal together, let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world; through Jesus, bread of heaven. 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. 135** "There's a Star in the East"

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE** Improvisation on Christmas Carols Gillum

*\*Please stand if you are able.*



**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:** [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**

Nancy Almond - Curtis Fox - Judy Schaffer - Steve Wilson  
Terry Brigham - Dennis Jacobs - Jim Jonell - Kent Meyer  
Mimi Hardendorf - Jennifer Workman - Bruce Ellingwood  
Fred Thibodeau - Clerk of Session: Barb Cole

**Deacons**

Diane Palmer - Chuck Bonza - Deborah Webb  
Chuck Slicker - Mike Dempsey - Brenda Gillum  
Jack Holmquist - Joanie Kleckner - Patti Dolezal  
John Davis - Larry Pierce - Marilyn Irwin



## ***Announcements***

**Greeters this morning** are Carol & Brian Rood.

**Fellowship Time**—Join us today for coffee and treats hosted by the Building & Grounds Committee.

Next Sunday, December 14th there will be a **Congregational Meeting** immediately following the worship service to discuss the election of officers and the Pastor's terms of call. Please plan to attend.

**Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine** will be on Wednesday, December 10th at 12:00 noon in the church Library. Since Bible Study was cancelled last week, this week's topic will again be "Joseph" Genesis Chapter 37. All are welcome to join!

### **Adult Study Group with Carol Nussbaumer —**

The Adult Study Group (a.k.a. Not Your Mother's Sunday School) continues on Friday, December 12th at 10:00am. We have been doing a basic study of the Book of Matthew, looking at some of the Biblical translations and why some appeal to us over others. All are welcome!

**Advent Study**—Join Pastor Christine either in person or on Zoom for a 4-week Advent study, reading and responding to Cynthia Campbell's *Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes*. Learn how the different gospel writers told (or did not tell) the Christmas story and discuss how that shapes our understanding of Jesus' arrival.

In-person gatherings: Mondays, December 8, 15 and 22 at 2:00pm in the church library

Zoom only gatherings: Sunday evening, December 7, 14 and 21 at 7:00pm

**All are welcome to attend! If you would like to participate, please contact Brenda in the church office to get the order information for your study book.**

The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*, will meet Monday, December 15, in the church Library. All women of the church are invited. We gather at 11:30am for coffee and fellowship with the lesson beginning at noon. This month, the lesson unpacks the parable of the Prodigal Son and will be led by Betty Meyer. We hope to see YOU there.

**Blue Christmas Service on December 21st at 5:00pm**—On the longest night of the year, we are sometimes overcome by cold, loneliness and an anxious world. Even with the coming of Christmas, the bleak winter seems to win. If you are in this space, come and worship in this quiet experience of the coming of Christ where we can warm our hearts and anticipate the Christ child who came for the poor in spirit, for those who mourn, for the meek and for all seeking hope this year.

**Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 5:00pm**—Experience a candlelight service filled with joy in the coming of the Christ Child, full of holiday music provided by the Chancel Choir, Bell Choirs, organist Larry Gillum and the Highland Brass Quintet.

**Upcoming:**

**Saturday, December 13**—Estes Park Chorale Concert at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary, directed by Denise Stookesberry

**Sunday, December 14**—Congregational Meeting following the worship service

**Sunday, December 21**—Blue Christmas service at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary

**Wednesday, December 24**—Christmas Eve service at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary

**Thursday, December 25**—Church Office Closed

***The Week Ahead***

**Monday, December 8**

9:30am Finance Committee  
1:00pm Membership Committee  
2:00pm Advent In-person Study Group  
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance

**Tuesday, December 9**

10:00am Building & Grounds  
12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group  
1:00pm Personnel Committee  
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance  
3:00pm Worship & Music Committee  
4:30pm Deacons  
6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study

**Wednesday, December 10**

10:00am Mission & Outreach  
12:00pm Bible Study  
1:00pm The Good Grief Group  
4:00pm Bell Choirs  
5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 77845  
6:00pm Luciana Ensemble  
6:30pm Estes Park Chorale

**Thursday, December 11**

8:30am ENN Board Meeting  
5:00pm EVICS  
6:15pm Girl Scout Service Unit  
6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group  
6:30pm Chancel Choir

**Friday, December 12**

10:00am Adult Study Group  
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance  
6:00pm Estes Park Chorale Rehearsal

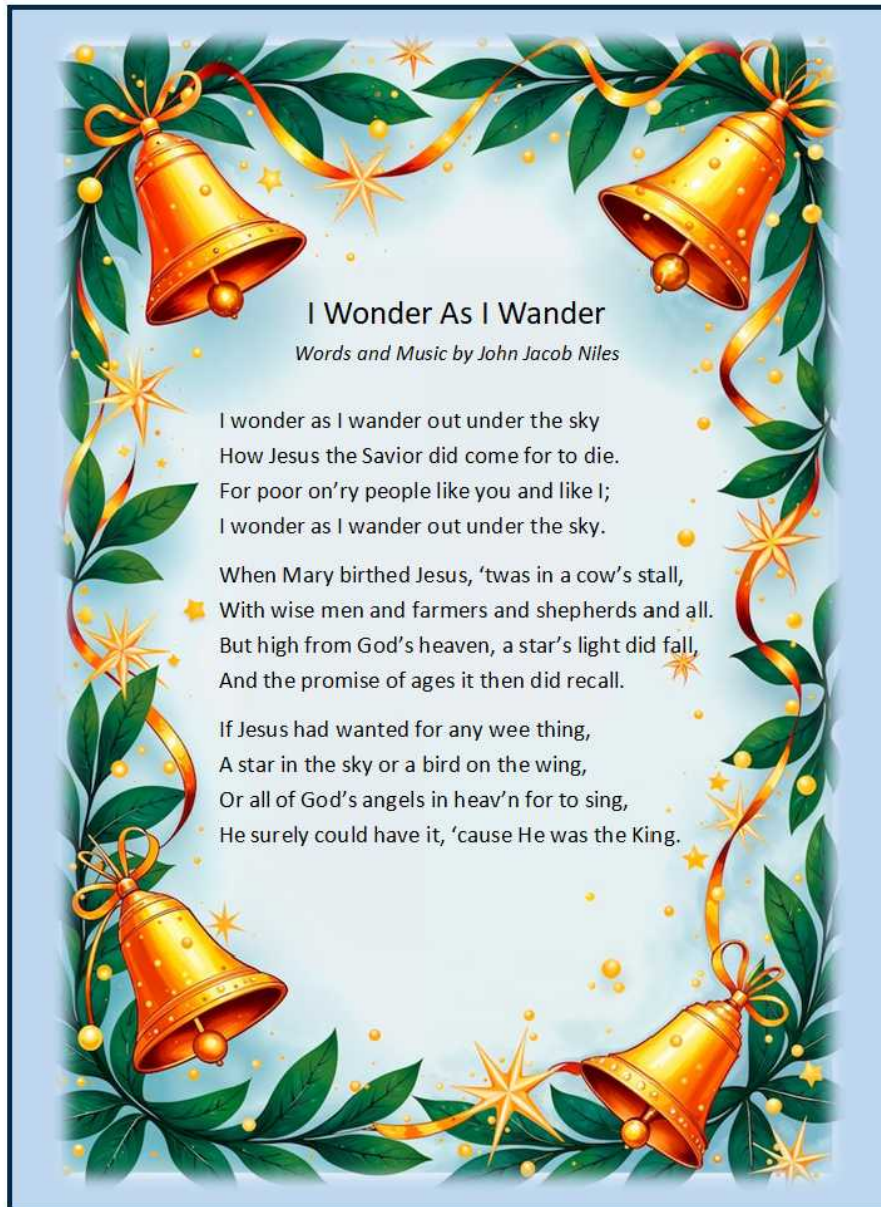
**Saturday, December 13**

9:00am Girl Scout Troop 76904  
10:00am Grace & Grub Christmas  
Brunch  
2:00pm Estes Valley Chorale Concert  
5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group

**Sunday, December 14**

8:30am Journeys  
10:00am Worship  
11:00am Congregational Meeting  
7:00pm Advent Zoom Study Group

*See the full church calendar on [www.pccrusa.org](http://www.pccrusa.org)*



## I Wonder As I Wander

*Words and Music by John Jacob Niles*

I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.  
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,  
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.  
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall,  
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,  
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,  
He surely could have it, 'cause He was the King.



**Presbyterian  
Community Church  
of the Rockies**



Donate!

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