

Wrapped in Love

Nativity courtesy of Donn & Sylvia Adams

December 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

“Jesus is Immanuel, God with us, God for us, the Savior of the world who knows our human suffering and refuses to turn away from it, but instead endures it so that none of what we face is unknown or off-limits to God’s grace.”

— Jill Duffield, Senior Minister of First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina

TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION

PRELUDE

“Noël Provençal”

Clokey

“Noël: Ancient French Air”

Balbastre

Organist, Larry Gillum

CHORAL INTROIT

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist, Patti Dolezal

The one who comes before reminds us

that the power of God is coming soon.

It is embodied in the infant Jesus.

Christ is Near! Let us celebrate God’s perfect love.

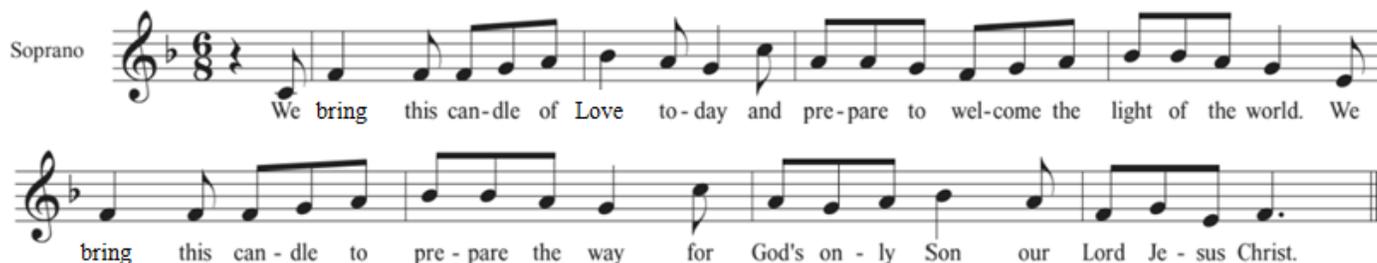
ENTRANCE OF THE ADVENT FLAME

Tami Scace

Words by J. Richard Dixon

Music by J. Richard Dixon

Soprano



We bring this can-dle of Love 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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

Paul Manz

***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**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

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. 140**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on Christmas Carols

Gillum

**Please stand if you are able.*



***OPENING HYMN NO. 108**

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, today we bring the lantern of love! 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 eternal love. It is perfect love. Let us live into your love and be a source of hope and promise for all we encounter.

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**

BELL ENSEMBLE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Eithun

Director, Patti Dolezal
Pianist, Verlene Thorp

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 63:7-9, NRSV

CHANCEL CHOIR

“What Star is This, That Beams So Bright”

arr. Rich Dixon
Director, Rich Dixon

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

John 1:14-18, NRSV

MESSAGE

“Wrapped in Love”

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

MEDITATION AND *HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 138

“Who Would Think That What Was Needed”

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Nancy Almond



Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21st

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 Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24th

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.



Church Staff

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

Office Administrator: Brenda Dixon, office@pccrusa.org

Financial Manager: Tia Shultz, finance@pccrusa.org

Handbell Director: Patti Dolezal, 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 Nancy & Bill Almond.

Fellowship Time—Join us today for coffee and treats hosted by Friends of PCCR.

CROSSROADS GROCERY CART will be in the Narthex today. Especially needed items are pasta noodles, hearty soups, canned fruit and pinto or black beans.

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine will be on Christmas break and will resume on Wednesday, January 7th at noon in the church library.

Adult Study Group with Carol Nussbaumer —

The Adult Study Group (a.k.a. Not Your Mother's Sunday School) is also on Christmas break and will resume on Friday, January 9th at 10:00am in the church library.

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.

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Upcoming:

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 in observance of Christmas Day

Thursday, January 1—Church Office Closed in observance of New Year's Day

Sunday, January 11—Installation of Church Officers

Monday, January 19—Church Office Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day

Monday/Tuesday, January 26 & 27—Elder/Deacon Retreat in the church library starting at 10:00am

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 22

2:00pm Advent In-person Study Group

Tuesday, December 23

12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group

6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, December 24

4:00pm Bell Choirs

5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, December 27

5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group

Sunday, December 28

10:00am Worship

See the full church calendar on www.pccusa.org



*Merry Christmas
from your
PCCR Staff*

*Pastor Christine
Brenda, Carolyn, Larry, Patti, Rich & Tia*



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies



Donate!

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