



The Invitation

January 4, 2026

1st Sunday of Christmas

"What you need to hear with your heart is that you are invited to dwell in the family of God."

— Henri Nouwen

TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION

PRELUDE

"Swiss Noël"

Louis-Claude Daquin

"What Child is This"

Tudor English Tune: *Greensleeves*

Organist, Larry Gillum

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist, Patti Dolezal

Arise! Shine! Jesus Christ our Lord is here!

Come and celebrate the newborn King!

God's hope floods the earth.

Come and see this child who is the promised one.

Lord make us ready to journey to this Light.

Come and Worship God incarnate, who is the Light of the World!

*OPENING HYMN NO. 151

"We Three Kings of Orient Are"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that even during this season of Christmas we have failed to put our trust in you. We have not asked for your divine guidance, we have forgotten to pray, and we have taken your name in vain. Our world has become one where the quiet gentle voice of Christ is pushed aside. God forgive us and help us follow the prince of peace. Help us see how our kindness can build a better world. Help us become the disciples that you have called us to be.

Silent Prayer of Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***RESPONSE:**

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex-cel-sis De - o! Glo -

- ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-7, NRSV

ANTHEM

"Kings Travel to Bethlehem"

words & music by J. Richard Dixon
Rick Patterson as *Melchior*
Jeff Lindberg as *Caspar*
Rich Dixon as *Balthazar*

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12, NRSV

MESSAGE

"The Invitation"

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

MEDITATION AND *HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 152

"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

"How Far is it to Bethlehem"

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

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

LITANY FOR EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Arise, shine; for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Nations will come to his light, and rulers will seek his radiance.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

He will judge the people with righteousness and defend the cause of the poor.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The mystery of the ages is revealed; the eternal plan of God is known to all.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us kneel down before him to give him honor, glory, and praise.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Let us offer him all the treasures of our hearts and our lives.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

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.

SANCTUS

141 On This Day Earth Shall Ring

3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three
to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be-
fore him, praise him and a - dore him. *Id - e - o - o - o,
id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. Chord symbols (Dm, Am, C, F, G, Em) are placed above the staves to indicate accompaniment. The lyrics are: '3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be-fore him, praise him and a - dore him. *Id - e - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!'.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

*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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

Loving and gracious God, from east and west, from north and south, you have gathered us at your table, called us your beloved, and fed us from your body. Transform us to be your body in the world, and fortify us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you and our neighbors with great joy. 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. 156** "Sing of God Made Manifest"

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE Carols of Epiphany L. Gillum

**Please stand if you are able.*



Announcements

Greeters this morning are Bonnie & Peter Vanderveen.

Fellowship Time—Join us today for coffee and treats hosted by the Card-Making Group.

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine will be on Wednesday, January 7th at 12:00 noon in the church library. This week's topic will be "Dreams" Genesis Chapters 40-41. All are welcome to join!

Adult Study Group with Carol Nussbaumer —

The Adult Study Group (a.k.a. Not Your Mother's Sunday School) will continue on Friday, January 9th at 10:00am in the church library. All are welcome!

Are you interested in helping with Fellowship Hour? Our 2026 Fellowship host calendar is almost finished but we need your help. One of the new groups hosting Fellowship Hour in 2026 will be called **Fellowship Hosts** and will be chaired by Sue Thomas. If you are a new member of the church or would like to help with treats, please let Brenda Dixon know in the church office and she will pass along your name to Sue. This will involve bringing treats two times in 2026. Thanks for helping Sue out!

Upcoming:

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, January 5

10:00am Christian Ed Committee
1:00pm Membership Committee
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance

Tuesday, January 6

12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance
6:30pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers
6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, January 7

12:00pm Bible Study
12:30pm Estes Nonprofit Network
1:00pm The Good Grief Group
4:00pm Joyful Bells

Thursday, January 8

8:30am Estes Nonprofit Network Board
1:00pm Foundation
4:00pm Chancel Bells

Thursday, January 8 continued

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

Friday, January 9

10:00am Adult Study Group
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance

Saturday, January 10

5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group

Sunday, January 11

8:30am Journeys
10:00am Worship
12:30pm EVICS Childbirth Class

See the full church calendar on www.pccrusa.org

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

Terry Brigham - Dennis Jacobs - Jim Jonell - Kent Meyer
Mimi Hardendorf - Jennifer Workman - Bruce Ellingwood
Fred Thibodeau - Dale Bonza - Diane Palmer - Brian Rood
Mike Warren - Clerk of Session: Barb Cole

Deacons

Mike Dempsey - Brenda Gillum - Jack Holmquist
Joanie Kleckner - Patti Dolezal - John Davis - Larry Pierce
Marilyn Irwin - Beth Carle - Leslie Causer
Mark Koepke - Ann Taylor



Nativity courtesy of Stan & Kathye Osborne



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies



Donate!

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