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Blessed Are...

the clean of heart

the meek

the poor in spirit

they who mourn

they who hunger & thirst

FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Matthew 5:3-12

the peacemakers

they who are persecuted for the sake of
righteousness, because of Me

Sermon:

“Better When I’m Dancing”

February 22, 2026

1st Sunday in Lent

“Just thinking about a friend makes you want to do a happy dance, because a friend is someone who loves you in spite of your faults.”

— Charles M. Schulz

TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

PRELUDE

“What Wondrous Love is This”

John Innes
Organist, Larry Gillum

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist, Randy Brigham

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven.

Happy are those whose sins are cast away.

Rejoice in the Lord! Be glad!

Sing out! Shout for joy!

Rejoice in the Lord!

Rejoice! Amen!

***OPENING HYMN NO. 269**

“Lead On, O King Eternal!”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we know that we are blessed in you, and yet we continue to run from your guidance, your love and your hope. God forgive us and help us remember that you sent Jesus to us who showed us how to live into your light and how to share your blessings to all whom we encounter.

Silent Prayer of Confession

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE:

216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see
the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:
the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

A READING FROM THE SCRIPTURE *Psalm 32, NRSV*

CHANCEL CHOIR "A Community of Faith"

John Purifoy
Director, Rich Dixon

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL *Matthew 4:23-5:11, NRSV*

MESSAGE "Better When I'm Dancing"

The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

MEDITATION AND *HYMN OF THE DAY NO. 688

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart”

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

“Elevation No. 47”

Dom Paul Benoit

***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, “**O Lord hear our prayer.**”*

Following each petition which concludes, “Jesus Christ is the Light of the World...”

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. 722**

“Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE

Lenten Meditations

**Please stand if you are able.*



The Week Ahead

Monday, February 23

9:30am Hospitality Committee
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance

Tuesday, February 24

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, February 25

9:00am Presentation by Gold Roofing
12:00pm Bible Study
2:00pm Presentation by Weddel & Sons
Roofing
4:00pm Joyful Bells
5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 77845
6:30pm Estes Park Chorale

Thursday, February 26

10:00am VBS Planning Meeting
4:00pm Chancel Bells
6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group
6:30pm Chancel Choir

Friday, February 27

9:30am Merry Marthas
10:00am Adult Study Group
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance

Saturday, February 28

10:00am Girl Scout Troop 70449
5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group

Sunday, March 1

8:30am Journeys
9:00am Lenten Study Group
10:00am Worship
4:00pm Oratorio Society Rehearsal
7:00pm Lenten Study Group on Zoom

See the full church calendar on www.pccrusa.org

Announcements

Greeters this morning are Lois & Bruce Ellingwood.

Fellowship Time—Join us today for coffee and treats hosted by the Merry Marthas.

Lenten Bible Study—Come and join us for a Lenten Bible study over the Beatitudes. We will be using the text *The Beatitudes for Today* by James C. Howell to guide our study. Three different times are available for you to choose from:

Sunday mornings beginning February 22nd at 9:00am in the Lounge, led by Mike Dempsey

Sunday evenings beginning February 22nd at 7:00pm on Zoom only, led by Pastor Christine

Wednesdays at noon beginning February 25th in the church Library, led by Pastor Christine

If you would like to participate, just add your name to the **sign-up sheet located in the Narthex** or let Brenda in the church office know. Please include which time you would like to attend and whether or not you would like a copy of the book. Books are \$12 each, although you are welcome to participate without purchasing the book and just bringing your Bible!

“Let Me Listen” Music Honoring the African Tradition, a concert benefitting the Estes Dementia Day Center will be held in the church Sanctuary **this afternoon, February 22nd at 2:00pm**. Music selections include jazz, spirituals and other works by black composers. Join the Estes Valley Chamber Singers, the Estes Park Chorale and other talented musicians and vocalists as they share their talents for a very worthy cause. Admission is free but donations are greatly appreciated. All proceeds will go to EDDC.

All Women of the church are asked to stop by the Presbyterian Women's table in the narthex to pick up their letter explaining the purpose and mission of Presbyterian Women and ways to support this ministry, whether it is through prayer or a donation. By picking up your envelope you will save postage allowing us to use any donations received for the mission work of Presbyterian Women. Thanks so much for your help with this distribution.

Adult Study Group with Carol Nussbaumer —

Adult Study Group is beginning a 4-week video Roundtable on Friday, February 27 titled “Exploring Biblical Archeology: the Story of Jericho.” Three biblical scholars will lead us on this adventure: Dr. Cyndi Parker, Dr. Nick Schasser and Dr. Yeshaya Gruber. The group meets on Friday mornings at 10:00 in the church library. No need for advance preparation, but a review of the book of Joshua would be useful. We will not be singing “Josua Fit’ De Battle O’ Jericho”...The group meets at 10:00am in the church library and all visitors are welcome!

Girl Scouts from Troop 70449 will be selling Girl Scout Cookies in the Narthex on Sunday morning, March 1. Here is an opportunity to support these girls as they raise money to fund local troop activities, trips, and community “Take Action” projects while learning essential entrepreneurship skills. Girl Scout Troop 70449 meets twice a month at our church during the school year.

Volunteers are needed at the Estes Dementia Day Center (EDDC) - The center will provide enriching activities, emotional support, and a safe environment for individuals living with any form of Dementia, starting in April. Volunteers will play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for participants through meaningful interactions and companionship. Volunteers will work closely with the Program Manager during their four (or more) hour commitment, and all training is free to volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about or becoming a Volunteer Caregiver in this program, please contact Jane at jhsstuart@gmail.com or 970-430-8105. (website: estesdementiadaycenter.org)

Upcoming:

Today, February 22—*Let Me Listen*-Music Honoring the African Tradition at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday, March 15—Crossroads Donation Day

Sunday, March 29—Palm Sunday Brunch immediately following the worship service in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, March 2—Maundy Thursday Service at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, March 3—Good Friday Service at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary

Sunday, March 5—Easter Service at 10:00am in the Sanctuary with Larry Gillum on the organ, the Chancel Choir, Combined Bell Choirs and special guest The Highland Brass

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

Let Me Listen

Music Honoring the African Tradition



Estes Valley Chamber Singers. Estes Park Chorale. Valerie Dascoli.
John Wolf. Tranquil Valley Gospel Singers. Simpatica. Patricia Arias.
Robert Johnson. Gary Hall. Michelle Gergen-Wisner. Nada Quartet.

A Concert Benefitting the Estes Dementia Day Center
Free Admission - Donations Greatly Appreciated



Sunday, February 22. 2 PM

Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies 1700 Brodie Avenue Estes Park



Presbyterian
Community Church
of the Rockies



Donate!

1700 Brodie Avenue, Estes Park, CO 80517

Website www.pccrusa.org

Phone 970-586-4404

E-mail office@pccrusa.org

Office hours 9:00-3:00, Monday-Thursday