

Photo courtesy of Anne & Dennis Jacobs

Longing for Wholeness

November 29, 2026

1st Sunday of Advent

"The goal of a Christian life becomes not enlightenment but wholeness – an acceptance of this complicated and muddled bundle of experiences as a possible theatre of God's work."
— Rowan Williams (104th Archbishop of Canterbury from 2002 to 2012)

TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION

WELCOME The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

PRELUDE "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Plainsong, 13th Century, Setting by John Carter
Pianist, Verlene Thorp

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (adopted from Isaiah 64, John 8 and 1 Peter) Liturgist, Patti Dolezal

Oh, that you would come down,

to make the nations quake.

Oh, that you would come down,

for those who follow your ways.

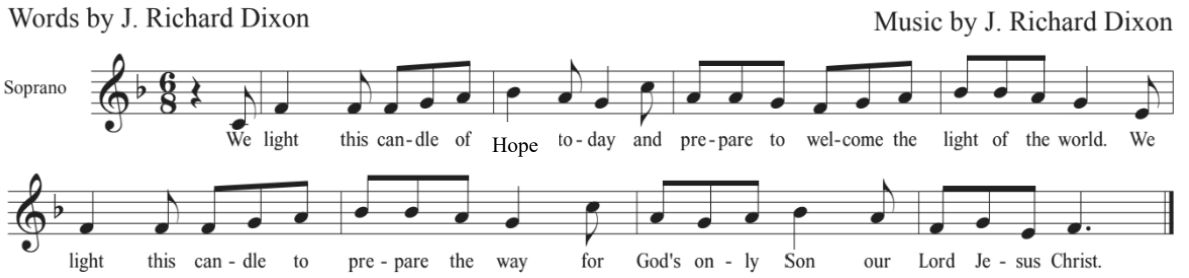
Oh, that you would come down,

to be the light for the world.

Oh, that you would come down,

to be a living hope for all people. And we will wait, singing your praises and worshiping your holy name.

ENTRANCE OF THE ADVENT FLAME Sue Yowell



***Opening Hymn No. 116** "The Snow Lay on the Ground"

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we are not whole. In our brokenness, we allow fear to overshadow hope, turn away from the suffering of others, and fall short of the love you call us to share. Forgive us and help us trust in your promise of renewal. Let us once again live in the light of Christ Jesus and be beacons of hope for our world.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

***Response:** #82 "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 Epistles *I Corinthians 1:3-9, NRSV*

A Reading from the Gospel *Mark 13:28*

Chancel Choir "How Shall We Know Him" Gilbert M. Martin
Director, Rich Dixon

A Reading from the Scriptures *Isaiah 64, NRSV*

Message "Longing for Wholeness" The Rev. Dr. Christine Dempsey

Meditation and *Hymn of The Day No. 137 "He Came Down"

Offering our Gifts

Offertory "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" *Giestliche Kirchengesäng, 1599*
Setting by John Carter

***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, 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

***HYMN OF SENDING NO. 123** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

POSTLUDE "On This Day Earth Shall Ring" PERSONENT HODIE, *Piae Cantiones, 1582*
Setting by John Carter

**Please stand if you are able.*

Announcements

Greeters this morning are Lois & Bruce Ellingwood.

Fellowship Time—Join us today for coffee and treats hosted by the Finance Committee.

Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Christine will take the month of December off and will resume on Wednesday, January 6th at 12:00 noon in the church library. Everyone is welcome, all you need is your Bible!

Adult Study Group with Carol Nussbaumer — Adult Study Group (a.k.a. Not Your Mother's Sunday School) will take the month of December off and will resume on Friday, January 8th at 10:00am in the church library. We will continue the study with Dr. Cyndi Parker on "Listening to the Land of the Bible." Each class stands alone so if you want to come once in a while, that is fine. All are invited!

FYI – Norovirus is going around our community. Please help protect one another by washing your hands thoroughly with soap and water, especially before eating and after using the restroom. Hand sanitizer alone is not effective against norovirus. If you are feeling ill, please stay home until you are well. Thank you for helping keep our church family healthy!

Today is the last day to order poinsettias for the church. If you are interested, please complete the form inserted in your bulletin and place in the offering plate or turn it into the church office with your payment. A list of all who have been honored or remembered will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

The Estes Valley Chamber Singers, directed by Rich Dixon, will present *Christmas in Estes* on Saturday, December 12 at 2:00pm in the church sanctuary. Joining the singers will be the combined PCCR bell choirs, Larry Gillum on the organ, Rich Woessner on cello, and the Highland Brass. All are invited to attend this special presentation of music of the season. There is no charge for the concert, but donations are always greatly appreciated.

Upcoming:

Saturday, December 12 – Estes Valley Chamber Singers Concert at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 21 – Blue Christmas Service at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 28 – Church Office Closed for Christmas

The Week Ahead

Monday, November 30

7:00am AA Early Worms
9:30am Hospitality Committee
11:00am Prayer Team
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance

Tuesday, December 1

7:00am AA Early Worms
9:30am Finance Committee
12:00pm One Day at a Time AA Group
1:30pm Nada Quartet Rehearsal
2 :00pm Advent Study with Lena
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance
6:00pm Estes Valley Chamber Singers
6:45pm Hispanic Bible Study

Wednesday, December 2

7:00am AA Early Worms
2:30pm Membership Committee
4:00pm Joyful Bells

Thursday, December 3

7:00am AA Early Worms
4:00pm Chancel Bells
6:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group

Friday, December 4

7:00am AA Early Worms
3:00pm Ballet Renaissance
6:30pm Mixed Nuts Al-Anon Group

Saturday, December 5

7:00am AA Early Worms
9:00am Card-Making Group
10:00am Advent Study at Fred Thibodeau & Rebecca Chopp's house
10:00am Girl Scout Troop 70449
10:30am EVICS Children's Choir Rehearsal
5:30pm One Day at a Time AA Group

Sunday, December 6

8:30am Journeys
10:00am Worship
5:30pm Advent Study at Brenda & Pete Perez's house
6:00pm Advent Study on Zoom

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

Deacons

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

Elders

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



Presbyterian Community Church of the Rockies

Donate!

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