



Sunday, December 5, 2021
9:00 & 11:10 a.m.

GATHERING IN GOD’S NAME

PRELUDE

“Now Come, Thou Savior of the World”

J. S. Bach

As we joyfully greet each other today, sharing the gifts of friendship and love, as the prelude begins, you are invited to begin your personal preparation for worship.

SILENT MEDITATION

God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving towards the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation; we are not alone on our journey...
Henri J.M Nouwen, *Gracias! A Latin American Journal*



CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

arr. Patricia Hurlbutt

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Scott and Amanda Stalnaker, Brynn, Ada, and Corbin (9:00)
Mike, Christine, and Cael Dempsey (11:10)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Light the can-dle of PEACE to-day, the Giv-er of peace is here! Wel-come the peace we
fight and cry for, but on - ly Christ can give. Flick - er and flame and
glow with peace, light up the world a - round you. Flick - er and flame and
glow with peace, light up the world a - round you.

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

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 together!

PRAISE AND ADORATION

***HYMN OF PRAISE #97**

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

ABERYSTWYTH

(*Please stand, if you are able.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, today we light the candle of peace! But we confess that we have sometimes assumed that conflict would overtake us. Instead of trusting in you, we have turned to despair. We have looked for help in the wrong places and have sought quick fixes from those with money and power. Forgive us, God. Let us listen to the voice crying out in the wilderness and help us prepare for the coming of Christ.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

KYRIE ELEISON



Come, thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins re-lease us; let us find our rest in thee.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI



Glo-ri-a, glo - ri-a, in excel - sis De - o! Glo-ri-a, glo - ri-a, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:10)

Nancy Utman, Membership Committee Elder

Rusty and Marla Vanneman, Beverley Karrer, and Wendy Chapman

ANTHEM

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

Setting by Joe Cox

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

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.

ANTHEM

"Maria walks amid the thorns"

Fred Gramann

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3: 1-6

page 834 of the pew Bible

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Not Alone on Your Journey"

Dr. Zieman

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Romans 8: 1, 28, 38, 39

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*RESPONSE (#607)

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below; praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #93

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

TRURO

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

While we are wait - ing, come; while we are wait - ing, come.
Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come; come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, While we are wait - ing, come.

POSTLUDE

"Now Come Thou Savior of the Word"

Hugo Distler

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Musicians	Chamber Singers; Brooke Lewis and Jayne Frederickson, soloists; Dana Sloan, organ		
Ushers	9:00	Tim Zimmerman, Dave Berry, Gary Lippstreu, Brad Burch	
	11:10	Jim Chapin, Paul Holubeck, Doug Reid, Carole Sieck, Inga Wagner	
Childcare Ministry	Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, and Brandon Fisher		
Today's Offering	The offering plates are located on tables as you come in. Thank you for your faithful giving!		
Joys & Concerns	The flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Jeannette Heese and Jennifer Paisley in memory of Joe Heese on what would have been his 89 th birthday.		
Coffee Fellowship	Kristin Jacobi and Karen Metzger		
Greeters	North Door	9:00 Paul and Kathy Nickel	11:10 Sue Jenkins
	South Door	9:00 Dave and Mary Ann Pederson	11:10 Karin Hjerpstedt
	Information Desk	9:00 Judy Thomas and Nancy Koehler	11:10 Pam Swenson



The Congregational Life Committee needs volunteers to greet on Sunday mornings. If you want to put a smile on everyone's face coming to church, this is a perfect role for you. Join us in welcoming everyone to our amazing church service. Sign up at the Information Desk. Thank you in advance for using your talents to spread some joy!

Chancel Flowers

A signup sheet for 2022 chancel flowers is available at the Information Center. The cost is still \$25.00. This is an excellent to celebrate a special occasion or remember loved ones. You can also call the church office at 402-333-7466 to sign up.



STAFF

Rev. Marshall Ziemann, D. Min.
 Rev. Christine Dempsey, Ph.D.
 Kristi Treu, M.A. Music
 Heather Berry
 Rock Sumner
 Gayle Kerr-McFadden
 Dana Sloan, M.M.
 Julie Hansen

Pastor, Head of Staff
 Associate Pastor
 Director of Music, Executive Director Vesper Concerts
 Christian Education Director
 Business Administrator
 Communication Coordinator
 Organist
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 churchofthecross@pcoc.us





For the week of December 5, 2021

Stewardship Update

Together we make a difference. Each church member is an important part of our Stewardship Season 2021! It's time for all the pledges to be in. To date, we have received 93% of expected responses. Our Session will meet next Sunday to set our 2022 budget. Thank you for your faithful giving.



Church Officer Nominations Are Now Being Accepted



In the Presbyterian Church we have the privilege and responsibility of nominating and electing our own congregational leaders. Now is the time to nominate a new class of Elders and Deacons. Forms are available in the Church Office and the Information Desk. The deadline is December 19th. Your input is both appreciated and necessary! Hand in your nominations to the church office or to a member of this year's Nominating Committee: Paula Allen, Mary Lynn Bennett, Jim Miller, Joe Weaver, Nancy Utman, and Josh Versaw.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

"Quiet Christmas, a time to Reflect, Remember, and Pray" is offered next Sunday, December 12 at 4:00pm

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is upon us. When the whole world seems to be merry and bright, we know that many struggle to feel – let alone repeat - the sounding joy. On **December 12** at 4:00 p.m., join us for "A Quiet Christmas" – a time to acknowledge what we are missing this season: loved ones, big family gatherings, and anything that makes us feel happy and whole. The service will include scripture and softer seasonal music to create a time for God to find us – a time to remind us of Emmanuel, God with us – a time to find peace and feel the coming of God's light. This is our special Advent Service where the Lord's Supper is offered.



Christmas Pageant and Advent Dinner is TONIGHT!

Dinner reservations ended last Sunday, but everyone is invited to the Children's Pageant, which begins at 5:00pm tonight in the sanctuary.

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 5

- 9:00 Livestream of early service - recording available afterwards
- 9:00 Worship in Sanctuary
- 10:00 Christian Education
- 11:10 Worship in Sanctuary
- 12:00 Cross Roads
- 5:00 Pageant and Advent Dinner

Monday, December 6

- 9:00 M&M Exercise
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 11:00 M&M Exercise
- 7:00 Worship & Music

Tuesday, December 7

- 9:30 Staff
- 11:30 49ers
- 1:00 Bible Study with Marshall
- 2:00 Active Minds
- 5:30 Finance

Wednesday, December 8

- 5:30 Chamber Singers
- 6:00 Confirmation Class
- Christmas Party
- 6:30 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, December 9

- 9:00 M&M Exercise
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 11:00 M&M Exercise
- 6:00 Bell Rehearsal
- 7:00 Personnel

Friday, December 10

- 6:30 Friday Night Gourmet

Sunday, December 12

- 9:00 Livestream of early service - recording available afterwards
- 9:00 Worship in Sanctuary
- 10:00 Christian Education
- 11:10 Worship in Sanctuary
- 12:00 Session Meeting
- 4:00 Quiet Christmas in sanctuary with Communion
- 4:45 JHF/SHF Fellowship

Cross Roads meets today after late service. This is a fellowship for Young Adults (ages 20-40). Meet at the circle drive doors and we'll enjoy pizza, a sermon talk-back, and fellowship. Led by Pastor Christine.

49ers is back and Ready to Bring our Attendees Information Along with Camaraderie. Our speaker for **Tuesday, December 7** will be Kent Grisham, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Nebraska Trucking Association, Truck Services, Inc., and Nebraska Trucking Foundation, Inc. Mr. Grisham brings nearly 30 years' experience in public relations, marketing, public affairs and media work for Fortune 100 companies. He is bound to tell us information we never knew regarding the trucking industry, taxes and supply chains. The lunch location is Gorat's, 4917 Center Street, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are 49, younger or older, come join us! We will order from a special menu. For reservations, please contact Donna Turner or Judy Sundberg or just sign-up at the Information Desk.

Family Night at the Omaha Street School

On **December 7**, Presbyterian Church of the Cross will host a Family Night at Omaha Street School for the students and their families. As in past years, we will be helping the families build gingerbread houses. You can help, by donating items for decorating the gingerbread houses. The types of items needed are available at the Information Desk. Please place any of these items in the Omaha Street School Donation Bin outside the church office by TODAY!



Friday Night Gourmets

Come one, come all, to Friday Night Gourmet's Hearty Hors d'oeuvre Christmas Party. It will be on **December 10** at 6:30pm at Tim and Kris Goodman's Home. Questions? Call Kris Goodman or AJ or Judy Sundberg. (Addresses and phone numbers are in the online directory and in your email from church.) Bring either a dessert or appetizer and the beverage of your choice. We will provide Wassail and a Signature Cocktail. It will be a fun and festive occasion. Please sign up at the Information Desk.

Time to Break Out your Ugly Christmas Sweaters!

The Confirmation Class and their mentors will be having an Ugly Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 8 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The evening will include a catered meal from Chef Nickie, fun games, and time for fellowship.

Bring Goodies to Share on Sunday, December 19

The Congregational Life Committee invites everyone to bring a goodie to share during Coffee Fellowship between services on December 19th. We will have lots of extra musicians and visitors here to enjoy the sounds of Christmas. Your specialty can be sweet or salty, a fruit or veggies... whatever you choose to bring. Please bring your treats to the kitchen cut, plated, and ready to serve. Your help will make this a Joyful Day!

Heartland Hope Mission Offers Several Opportunities for Christmas Giving This Year

The holiday season is upon us. What better way to celebrate the season of giving than to provide gifts for children in our community who would normally receive very little, if anything, Christmas morning. Please consider the following options for giving to Heartland Hope Mission's annual Hope-filled Christmas celebration for local families in need this year.

Option 1: The Giving Tree - Of course, we will have the traditional Giving Tree up in the church's narthex this year. Take an angel ornament from the tree which will have 11 - 15 year old boy or girl suggestions for gift ideas. Shop for a gift **and return it to the church by Sunday, December 12th unwrapped** and place it in the Christmas wrapped and decorated box. Also needed is Christmas wrapping paper for parents to wrap their child's gifts.

Option 2: Amazon Wish List – For those of you who prefer to shop online. You can shop for three age groups of children and purchase a gift through Amazon. The gift will be delivered directly to HHM before the Christmas event.

Option 3: Adopt-a-family – If you prefer a more personal touch, consider adopting a family and purchase gifts for the children of a local family who is struggling financially this year. You will be able to designate how many children for which you would like to provide gifts. There is a \$50 minimum commitment per child. You will also be asked if you would be willing to donate \$25 for a Christmas dinner for the family.

Option 4: Finally, HHM would also appreciate any monetary donations. You can donate directly via their website.

For options 2-4, we've made it super easy. Just click the "HHM Christmas Giving" button on the church website home page for quick links to these giving options.

Also, there are still 2 time slots to volunteer and help with the Christmas celebration at HHM headquarters in South Omaha: Saturday, December 18, from 1:30 – 4:00 and also on Thursday, December 23, from 1:00 - 5:00. Contact Amanda at the Heartland Hope Mission to volunteer. Thank you for your generous support of Heartland Hope Mission!
- John Bennett, for the Mission Committee.



College-Age Christmas Party on December 19 at 5:00 p.m. Catch up with your church friends this holiday season! Hosted at the Berry's House. Dinner will be served, so please RSVP to Heather at heather@pcoc.us by December 12.

More Church News & Events

Active Minds

Active Minds will meet only December 7 and 14. We will continue with Whist for those 2 weeks. The 2022 Theme for Active Minds will be learning games from our richly diverse heritage. We have Swedish, Irish, Chinese, German, and Swiss games on the agenda. If you have suggestions, please contact Earlene Uhrig.

Sunday School Class Change

The Jr. High and Sr. High Sunday School Classes will combine during the month of December. Holly Baddley will be leading the study. Meet in the Great Room.

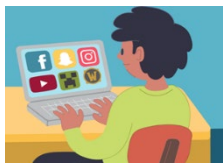
“Tables for Eight” – Winter Session 2022

The deadline for registration for the winter session (January, February, March, and April) is December 10.

New “Regular” participants (couples or singles) are definitely welcome to join this fellowship opportunity.

“Substitutes” are welcome as well. For new participants, the form is available at the Information Desk or you can register online at the Website. Questions: Contact Pam Otto. If you are currently participating as a regular in the 2021 Fall Session, you will automatically be placed in a new group unless you contact Pam. We would like to add people to the “Substitute” List; so if that fits your schedule better, please contact Pam.

Siena Francis House Servers Needed on Sunday, December 12. Did you know that Siena Francis House provides nearly 400,000 meals each year? PCOC serves meals on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and we are looking for volunteers to serve from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. To serve, you must be registered as a volunteer on the Siena Francis House website and sign up for one of the PCOC timeslots. If you have not already created a volunteer account, the website will prompt you to do so. Due to data on the contagiousness of the COVID-19 Delta and other emerging variants, Siena Francis House is taking proactive measure to protect volunteers and guests to their campus. Siena Francis House requires that all volunteers provide either proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of a volunteer shift. All vaccination and testing information will be treated as confidential. If you have questions, call or email Keith Allen.



Smart Digital Branding Workshop on January 12 and 19. The CE committee encourages parents (and grandparents) of children of all ages to attend this special 2-part workshop presented by Smart Gen Society. Learn more and sign up on our website (sign up button is on the home page).

COVID Safety

We need everyone’s help to keep our church community healthy, active, and worshipping together within our walls. Please follow our safety protocols.

- **If you or a family member are not feeling well, you should stay home from church to be safe.**
- **For all Sunday School, Cornerstone, and Youth activities:** All participants & teachers - regardless of vaccination status - must wear a mask indoors for all activities when interacting with kids/youth. This includes wearing a mask at Cornerstone meals until you are seated at your table. For outdoor activities, masks are not required.
- **For indoor worship:** If you are fully vaccinated, masks are optional, although recommended. You may sit anywhere in the Sanctuary for worship. If you are not vaccinated, masks are required (for ages 2+).
- **For outdoor events:** Masks are optional for all attendees.
- When the church office becomes aware of a person who has attended an event that develops COVID-19, the church will notify the congregation via email. Members or guests will be encouraged to determine if they were in attendance for the event and to self-monitor for symptoms.

Presbyterian Church of the Cross

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