



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, December 11, 2022

9:00 and 11:10 a.m.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

"Sussex Carol"

Patricia Hurlbutt

As the prelude begins, you are invited to begin your personal preparation for worship.

SILENT MEDITATION

"Are you willing to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe, and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness - even for a day? Then you can keep Christmas."

- Henry Van Dyke



THIRD SUNDAY OF

Advent

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

(9:00) Angie Aliano, Jeff and Marlys Boyum

(11:10) Mike Howland and Linda Matson

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Light the Candle"

Carl Schalk

Light the can-dle of JOY to-day, the Giv-er of joy is here! — Wel-come the joy we crave and pray for, but

on - ly Christ can give. — Flick-er and flame and glow with joy, light up the world a - round you.

Flick-er and flame and glow with joy, light up the world a - round you.

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come from a world of darkness

People: **Into Christ's world of light.**

Leader: We come from a world of weariness

People: **Into God's strength and hope.**

Leader: We come from a slumbering world.

People: **Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls, to watch for the coming of Christ. Let us worship God!**

PRAISE AND ADORATION

***ADVENT HYMN #106**

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

(*Please stand if you are able)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

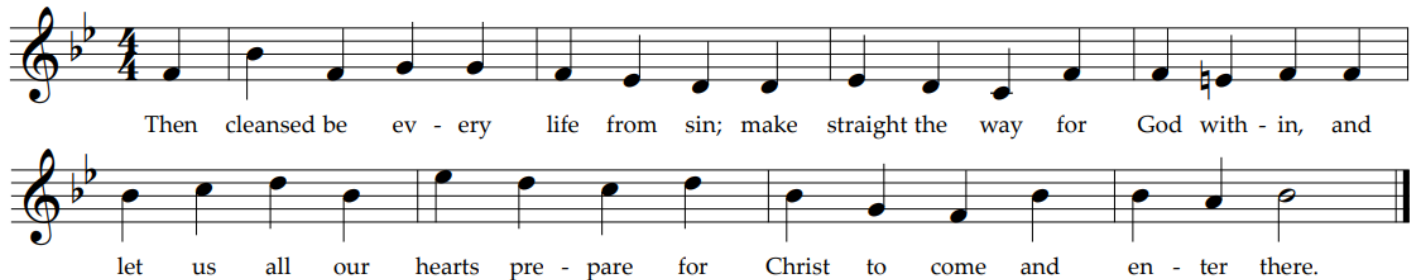
Gracious God, our doubt and despair lead us to low and longsuffering places. Our eyes downcast, we find nothing for which to give thanks, we find no reason to rejoice. Yet, you call us to resist the overwhelming forces that drag us down. You call us to rejoice in a babe about to be born. You call us to lift our eyes in hopeful anticipation of your kingdom to come. Forgive us. Help us. Save us, and restore our joy to us!

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

KYRIE ELEISON (#96)

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

WINCHESTER NEW



Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make straight the way for God with - in, and
let us all our hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI (#583)**

“Glory to God”

GLORIA (Taizé)



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)

Pam Otto, Elder on the Membership Committee

Jim DePooter

Jeff Friesen, Camille Hancock Friesen, and Beckett Friesen

Barbara Haar-Rightmyer Arlene Meester

Erin Moore

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 35

page 578 of the pew Bible

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

"The Little Jesus"

Jason W. Krug

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11: 1-11

page 792 of the pew Bible

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"Leaving the Wilderness"

Rev. Dempsey

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From The PCUSA Study Catechism)

Why was the title "Christ," which means "anointed one," applied to Jesus?

Jesus Christ was the definitive prophet, priest and king. All of the Lord's anointed in Israel anticipated and led finally to him. In assuming these offices Jesus not only transformed them, but also realized the purpose of Israel's election for the sake of the world

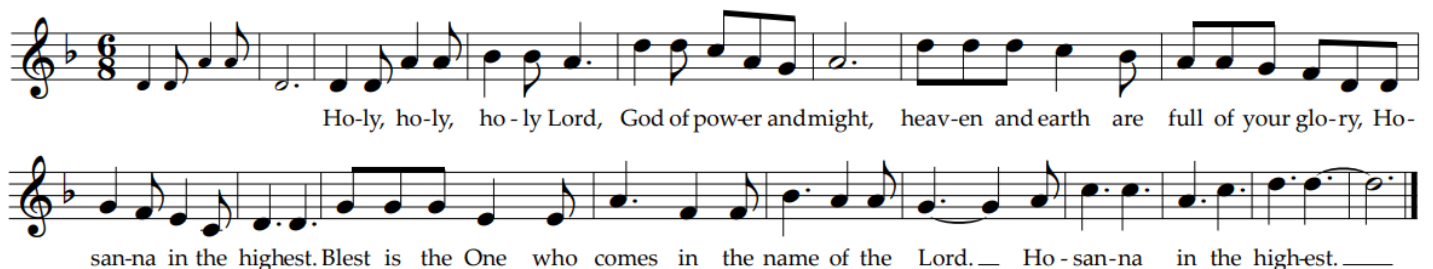
How did Jesus Christ fulfill the office of prophet?

He was God's Word to a dying and sinful world; he embodied the love he proclaimed. His life, death and resurrection became the great Yes that continues to be spoken despite how often we have said No. When we receive this Word by faith, Christ himself enters our hearts, that he may dwell in us forever, and we in him.

*SANCTUS (#569)

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

SANCTUS (Oliver)



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of power and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho-san-na in the highest. Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.— Ho-san-na in the highest.—

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"Christmas Tapestry"

Lloyd Larson

*DOXOLOGY (#607)

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

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Gracious God, accept these gifts in grateful response for your generosity in our lives. May these gifts bring joy to those most in need of Christ’s mission and ministry. Amen.

***ADVENT HYMN #93**

“Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

TRURO

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION (#92)**

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

WAITING (Cason)

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

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

Paul Manz

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Music

Carillon Choir, Larry Frederickson, director
 Kristi Treu, piano; Annette White, organ

Childcare Ministry

Kari Murry, Chelsea Spielman, Brandon Fisher

Ushers

9:00	Jim Miller (captain), Linda Miller, Gary Marron, Marsha Marron, Frank McMullen
11:10	Tim Goodman (captain), Kris Goodman, Judy Sundberg, Barb Scanlan, Dan Scanlan

Greeters

9:00	North Door: Barb & Pat McNeal	South Door: Annie Wattles
9:00	North Door: Dave & Mary Ann Pederson	South Door: Doug Larson

Information Center

9:00	Karen Saunders	11:10	Pam Swenson
------	----------------	-------	-------------

Coffee Host

Matt Kahler

STAFF

Rev. Marshall Zieman, D. Min.	Pastor, Head of Staff	marshall@pcoc.us
Rev. Christine Dempsey, Ph.D.	Associate Pastor	christine@pcoc.us
Kristi Treu, M.A. Music	Director of Music, Executive Director Vesper Concerts	kristi@pcoc.us
Heather Berry	Christian Education Director	heather@pcoc.us
Rock Sumner	Business Administrator	rock@pcoc.us
Gayle Kerr-McFadden	Communications Coordinator	gayle@pcoc.us
Anne Wattles	Administrative Assistant	churchofthecross@pcoc.us
Annette White, S.M.M.	Interim Organist	

For your convenience during worship: Bibles, hymnals, and sign-in books are in the pews. Blue envelopes are provided for the offering, and white prayer request cards are also provided. Prayer requests are confidential.



Announcements

For the week of December 11, 2022

The Week Briefly

Sunday, December 11

- 9:00 Worship in Sanctuary & Livestream
- 10:00 Sunday School
- 11:00 Don & Millie's Caring & Sharing Day until 3 p.m.
- 11:10 Worship in Sanctuary
- 12:00 SHF Lunch at Don & Millie's
- 12:15 Session Meeting
- 1:00 Resound Rehearsal
- 4:00 Quiet Christmas in Sanctuary
- 4:15 Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House
- 4:45 JHF Fun & Games
- 8:00 College Bible Study on Zoom

Monday, December 12

- 9:00 & 11:00 Music & Movement
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 6:30 CE Meeting

Tuesday, December 13

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 1:00 Afternoon Bible Study
- 5:30 Membership Committee Meeting
- 6:30 Mission Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 14

- 5:30 Chamber Singers
- 6:30 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, December 15

- 9:00 & 11:00 Music & Movement
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 6:30 Refugee Committee Meeting

Friday, December 16

- Cross Currents* Deadline
- 2:00 Poinsettia setup

Saturday, December 17

- 10:00 Choir & brass rehearsal

Sunday, December 18

Annual Advent Music Sunday

Pantry Sunday

- 9:00 Worship in Sanctuary & Livestream
- 10:00 Special Coffee Fellowship
- 11:10 Worship in Sanctuary
- 4:30 SHF/JHF - Movie Night until 6:30

Joys and Concerns

The flowers for Sunday's service are provided by Judy Arms in memory of Henry.

Please keep in prayer:

- Anne Anderson is ailing from pancreatic cancer
- Spencer Evers is recovering from hip replacement surgery
- All those who are sick or recovering from RSV, influenza, or COVID

Our Christmas pageant last Sunday was a joy! If you missed it, watch it anytime online on the church website.

Light the Advent Candles. We need a family to light the Advent candles during worship on December 18 at 11:10 a.m. Sign up at the Information Desk.



Don & Millie's Caring & Sharing Day. Stop by Don & Millie's at 108th & Center to grab lunch from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. today. Tell them you're with PCOC, and 20% of your bill comes back to us to support the next JHF Mission Trip.

Youth Groups Today. SHF will meet after late service and carpool to Don & Millie's for lunch. JHF will meet from 4:45-6:30 at the church for Fun & Games.

Session Meeting Today. The Session meets at 12:15 in Room 15.

Quiet Christmas Today at 4:00 p.m.

The holidays can be difficult. Our Quiet Christmas service is a time to acknowledge what we are missing amidst the bustle of the season. The service will include scripture and softer seasonal music to create a time for God to find us as we search for peace, love, and joy. We will also share Communion during the service.



Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House from 4:15-6:15. PCOC serves meals on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and we are looking for volunteers from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. TODAY. We need at least 6 volunteers, and 5 of our spots are currently open! Questions? Contact Sandi Stuckey.

College Bible Study at 8:00 p.m. on Zoom. For anyone of college age (Meeting ID: 861 0569 0844 Passcode: 045719)

Bring Your Angel Tree Gifts to Church TODAY for HHM's Christmas. If you took an angel from the tree, please return your unwrapped gift(s) to the church today. Want to do more? You can also adopt a family, shop online, or donate funds to support HHM's Christmas efforts. HHM also needs volunteers for their Christmas celebration. Volunteers will pack toys in bags for parents to take home to their children or help with the various celebration events. There are a variety of dates and times to choose from, and you can use the button below to sign up for a shift. After signing up, you will receive a confirmation email and a detailed explanation of where to go and what you will be doing. Learn more and find links to these HHM opportunities on the church website.

Mission Giving Tree in Lobby. Our beautiful wooden giving tree is set up in the Lobby outside the Church Office. Donations this year will go to the following PCOC mission partners: Omaha Street School, Russian Mission Partnership, and Siena Francis House. Envelopes are available by the tree. Just check your donation choice, enclose your check, and leave the envelope in the basket. All checks should be made out to Presbyterian Church of the Cross.

Christmas at PCOC ... Our Place in the Story

Join PCOC in celebrating a Christ-centered holiday. Mark your calendars and plan to attend these upcoming December events as we find our place in the story.

9:00 and 11:10 Worship Services on December 18

Alleluia and Chamber Singers, along with Resound Vocal Ensemble and professional brass ensemble and percussion, will provide music for both of our worship services on Sunday, December 18. They will present John Rutter's exciting setting of the "Gloria," arrangements of beloved old and new Christmas carols, songs, and congregational hymns. It's a perfect opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor, or colleague to join you.



The Congregational Life Committee invites you to bring treats to share at Coffee Fellowship that day. Please have items already cut/ready to serve.

Join us for worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!

Christmas Eve

December 24

5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

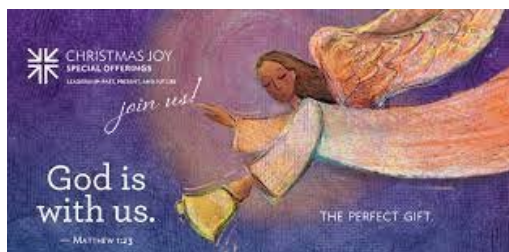


Christmas Day

December 25

11:10 a.m.

Christmas Joy Offering. In December, we participate in the PCUSA Christmas Joy offering. The funds from this offering are divided. One half of the collection goes to support our pastor retirement fund, and the other half is divided to support children in need in our community through three of our local charities: Completely Kids, CASA Douglas County, and CASA Sarpy County. Use the special envelopes in the pews or write "Christmas Joy" on a blue envelope.



Back by popular demand . . . it's the PCOC Christmas Light Tour! You might recall that we did this in December 2020, and our members loved being able to drive by the festive displays. If you'd like to share your outdoor holiday lights with the congregation this season, please sign up online to have your address listed on the tour. (Addresses on the tour will be shared only with church members each week by email.)



Nominate an Officer Today! 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. Your input is both appreciated and necessary! Complete an online nomination form, or stop by the Information Center or church office to pick up a form. Deadline for nominations is December 18.

Presbyterian Men Bell Ringers Needed. Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to ring bells for the Salvation Army's Christmas campaign on Saturday, December 17, at Hy-Vee on 132nd and Dodge. Each volunteer will ring during 1-hour shifts starting at 10:00 a.m. and ending at 4:00 p.m. (2 people at the east and west doors/shift). Volunteers should check in with one of the PM Board Members about 5 minutes before the start of your shift. This is an easy and enjoyable opportunity to assist the Salvation Army in helping those among us in need during the Christmas season. Please sign up at the Information Desk by Sunday, December 11. Thanks to Jim Chapin for coordinating this activity.

Book Group on December 21. PCOC Book Group will meet Wednesday December 21, 5:15-6:30, to discuss *Payne Hollow, Life on the Fringe of Society* by Harlan Hubbard. PLEASE NOTE: We will NOT be meeting at church as we usually do. We will meet at the Fettig's residence at The Arboretum Village, 8141 Farnam Drive (across the street from Methodist Hospital parking garage). Closer to the meeting date, June will send an email to the Book Group with specific directions regarding getting to her residence. All readers are welcome!

You're Invited! Come wish Jim & Joan Gayle a happy 50th anniversary! Their family will be hosting a special celebration in their honor on Monday, December 26.



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF
Jim & Joan Gayle Chapin
Monday the Twenty-Sixth of December, 2022
from 2:30pm to 5:30pm
Cake & Card Reception
Hosted by their nieces
Presbyterian Church of the Cross
1517 South 114th Street • Omaha, Nebraska 68144
RSVP to
Julie Trivilino: 402.917.8449
jtrivilino64@gmail.com
or
Vicki Petrick: 402.707.4588
Your presence is your present.

New Member Class on January 15. If you know someone who is looking for a church home, invite them to PCOC this Advent! This is an especially beautiful time of year to show others what our church has to offer: traditional worship, exceptional music, and thriving education, fellowship, and mission programs. Our next new member class will be Sunday, January 15 after late service in Room 15. The class will last about an hour, and a light lunch will be served. Sign up online or call the church office.

Church Volunteer Opportunities. We need help filling our usher teams and greeting spots!

- Ushers serve at one service, one Sunday every month. If you'd like to help, sign up online for one of the following Sundays: 3rd Sunday, 4th Sunday, or 5th Sunday (in Jan. and April)
- We need greeters on Sunday mornings. Just choose your preferred service and door. The greeting locations are at the North Door at the bottom of the stairs by Fellowship Hall or at the South Door by the Sanctuary.

Monday Morning Kitchen Crews Needed. The church needs Monday Morning Kitchen Crews for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Mondays of each month. Each 2-person crew completes a "Weekly Maintenance" checklist. This is a non-strenuous job which requires about an hour of your time. If you are interested, would like to be on the substitute list, or have questions, contact Annie or Rock at churchofthecross@pcoc.us or call 402-333-7466 during office hours. Thank you!

New Year - New Education Classes

Adult Education. Learn more & sign up online!

- **Stories for Life in God's World: A Study of Parables** - Led by Kirk Ryckman - Wednesdays, January 11 – March 15 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Room 15
- **The Ten Commandments - Past, Present, and Future** - Led by Pastor Christine - Sundays, January 29 – February 19 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 15
- **Drug Education Class for Parents and Children** - Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. - Join members of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Omaha Division as they provide an overview on the latest drug threats facing the country and more specifically what's being seen in Nebraska.



Cornerstone January 11 - March 15. It's time to register for the spring session of Cornerstone! Build strong ties with God and one another every Wednesday night with Bible study, music, and dinner. Please register and submit payment online. Everyone who registers for dinner is asked to volunteer to set up, serve dinner, or clean up. Registering ahead of time helps us plan for class supplies and gives us an accurate count for dinner so that we have enough food and are not wasteful. The deadline to register is January 1.



Communion Class on Wednesday, January 18. Join Pastor Marshall from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. to learn about the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This class is geared towards children in second grade and older that haven't had a chance to participate before. Come and join us for dinner, activities, and communion. Childcare will be provided for younger siblings. Sign up online.

Did you see something that you'd like to sign up for? We've made it easy to sign up online! Use your smart phone to scan our QR code to go to the PCOC Online Signup Page. Scroll to locate your event, then click the button to go to that sign up form. Don't have a smart phone? Stop by the Information Desk and use the tablet to sign up online.



Presbyterian Church of the Cross

1517 S. 114th Street – Omaha, NE 68114-1799 | Phone: (402)333-7466 | Fax: (402)697-9084

Email: churchofthecross@pcoc.us | Website: churchofthecrossomaha.org
