



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

"Overture from 'Messiah'"

G.F. Handel

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

SILENT MEDITATION

And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way, With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours, Come swiftly on the wing:
Oh, rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849



CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP (11:10)

"A Spotless Rose"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

(9:00) Sharon Igel and Melissa Marvin

(11:10) Tim and Kris Goodman

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Light the Candle"

Carl Schalk



ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness:

People: "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Leader: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,

People: and for the Prince of Peace to rule our hearts and world. Let us worship God!

PRAISE AND ADORATION

***ADVENT HYMN #97**

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

ABERYSTWYTH

(*Please stand if you are able)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

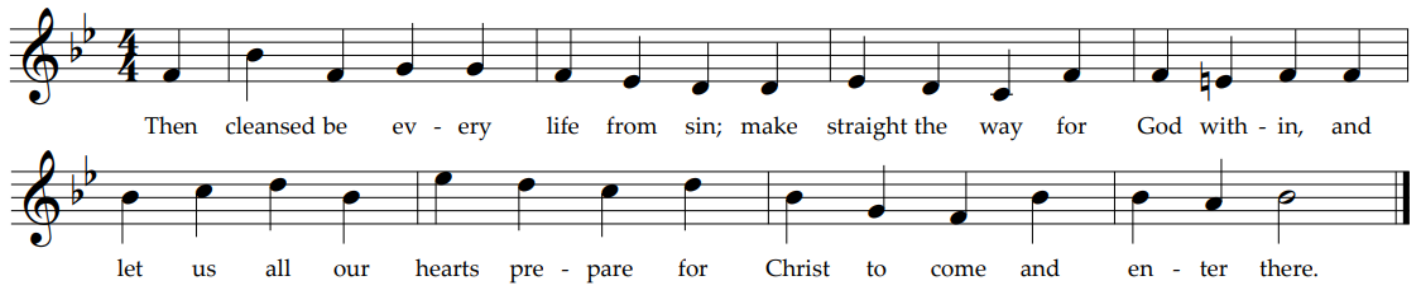
Merciful God, we pray today awaiting the coming of the Prince of Peace. We live in a time where division and strife are the norm, and we stand by idly. Forgive us for our inaction in being agents of your love. Help us choose words and take actions that bring reconciliation and let us always look for solutions that honor your creation.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

KYRIE ELEISON (#96)

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

WINCHESTER NEW



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI (#583)**

“Glory to God”

GLORIA (Taizé)



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

John Bennett, for our PCOC Advent Giving Trees

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1-10

page 558 of the pew Bible

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

"Adagio from Sonata in B flat major" (9:00)

"Christ the Appletree" (11:10)

G.P. Telemann

Stanford Scriven

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 3: 1-12

page 784 of the pew Bible

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"What Are You Preparing for This Year?"

Dr. Zieman

*PROFESSING THE FAITH OF OUR CHURCH

In love you came to a stable in Bethlehem

to become one with us.

In love you walked the plains and hills of Galilee and Judea

to teach us how to live.

In love you were nailed on a cross on Calvary

to bear away our sin.

In love you rose from a tomb in Joseph's garden

to defeat death's power over us.

In love you ascended beyond the clouds

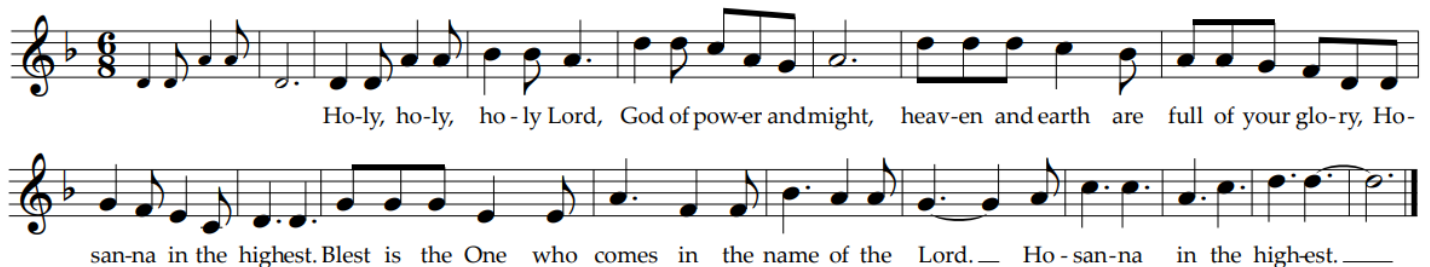
to be our reigning Lord.

You came to love us so that we need never feel unloved, deserted, alone, and condemned.

*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 high-est. —

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"Wexford Carol" (9:00)

arr. Wayne Fritchie

"The Rose That Bare Jesu" (11:10)

Duncan Tuomi

*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

God of mercy, accept our gifts and multiply them for Christ's mission of love and grace for all the world.
Amen.

*ADVENT HYMN #88

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1-4)

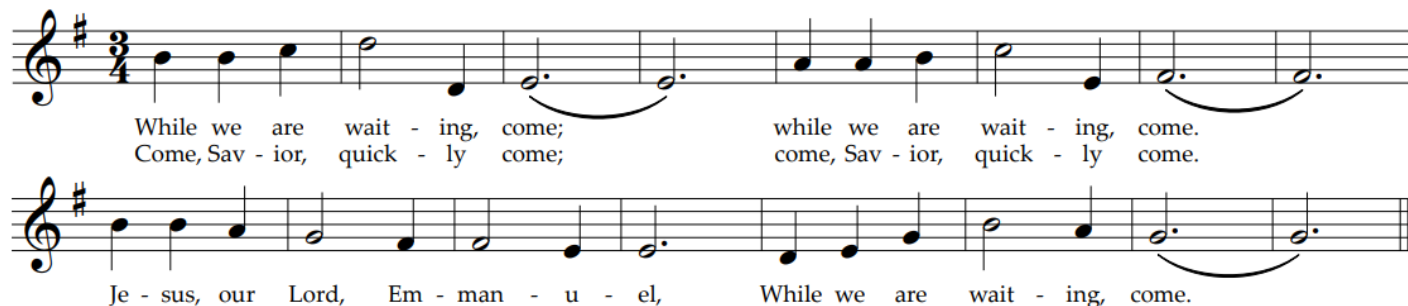
VENI EMMANUEL

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION (#92)

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

WAITING (Cason)



POSTLUDE

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Healey Willan

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Music	9:00	Dr. Sara Renner, oboe; Kristi Treu, piano; Annette White, organ	
	11:10	Chamber Singers; Kristi Treu, director; Annette White, organ	
Childcare Ministry	Kari Murry, Chelsea Spielman, Brandon Fisher		
Ushers	9:00	Tim Zimmerman (captain), Dave Berry, Brad Burch, Gary Lippstreu, Mike Dempsey	
	11:10	Jim Chapin (captain), Paul Holubeck, Doug Reid, Inga Wagner, Kim Banat	
Greeters	9:00	North Door: Betsy & Jim Conway	South Door: Doug Larson
	11:10	North Door: Earlene Uhrig	South Door: Lowell & Donna Wilhite
Information Center	9:00	Sue Meusey	11:10 Sue Jenkins
Coffee Host	Kathy Moore & Cindy Rieke (due to the Advent Dinner we'll serve coffee in the Lobby)		

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 4, 2022

The Week Briefly

Sunday, December 4

- 9:00 Worship in Sanctuary & Livestream
- 10:00 Sunday School/Pageant Rehearsal
- 11:10 Worship in Sanctuary
- 1:00 Resound Rehearsal
- 5:00 Children's Pageant
- 6:00 Advent Dinner

Monday, December 5

- 9:00 & 11:00 Music & Movement
- 5:30 Personnel Committee

Tuesday, December 6

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 11:30 49ers
- 1:00 Afternoon Bible Study
- 4:00 Congregational Life Meeting
- 5:30 Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 7

- 10:00 OAC Meeting
- 5:30 Chamber Singers
- 6:00 Confirmation/Mentor Christmas Party
- 6:30 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, December 8

- 9:00 & 11:00 Music & Movement
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 11:30 FELD Educator's Lunch Meeting
- 7:00 Vesper Concert

Friday, December 9

- 6:00 Bell Rehearsal

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

Joys and Concerns

- The flowers for Sunday's service are provided by Bill & Libby Graves in memory of their parents and grandparents.
- Ginger Petersen-Britt is grieving the loss of her son-in-law Craig McVea. His funeral service was held at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church on December 1.
- Ron Mau is home and recovering from a recent hospital stay.

South Parking Lot is Now Open! The South Parking Lot and South Door are now open. The fence has been moved to the back part of the lot, and we do not yet have all our parking spots. We kindly ask that parking in the South Lot and Circle Drive be left primarily for those who have mobility issues and need to be closer to the Sanctuary. Park only in the spaces that have been striped. An abundance of parking can be found in the North Parking Lot. Please do not park in the Brook Hollow neighborhood (east on Pine Street). If your family drives separate cars to church on Sunday, please consider carpooling together to use only one parking spot for your family.

Please Pick Up Greenery Orders. If you ordered greenery from the SHF fundraiser, please pick up your item(s) in Room 13 on Sunday, December 4 after early service or after late service. Items are marked with names.

No College Bible Study tonight!

Light the Advent Candles. We need families to light the Advent candles during worship. You will read the Call to Worship as you light the Advent candle. Please sign up at the Information Desk for one of these services: December 11 at 9 a.m., December 18 at 9 a.m., or December 18 at 11:10 a.m.



Tai Chi Updates. Tai Chi will not meet on December 5.

49ers on Tuesday, December 6. Our December speaker will be a SURPRISE GUEST FROM THE NORTH POLE. Join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at WHEATFIELDS, 1224 South 103rd Street (One Pacific Place) in the Garden Room. Everyone is welcome, whether you are 49, younger, or older! We will order from a special menu. For reservations or questions, please contact Mary Ott or Judy Sundberg. Sign up at Information Center.



Christmas at PCOC . . . Our Place in the Story



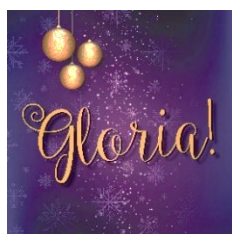
Join PCOC in celebrating a Christ-centered holiday. Mark your calendars and plan to attend these December events as we find our place in the story.

Children's Christmas Pageant and Advent Dinner TONIGHT

Join us in the Sanctuary at 5 p.m. for "Be More Than Counted" - a gift for our church family from the children of PCOC. Afterwards, those who signed up will stay for the Advent Dinner at 6 p.m. Be sure to remember to bring your dessert to share (precut bars, cookies, or cupcakes only, please. No cakes or pies.) Bring to kitchen on Sunday morning or before the pageant.

Quiet Christmas on December 11

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.



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.





An A Cappella Christmas with Calmus Vocal Ensemble. Don't miss this extraordinary group, known as one of the world's premiere a cappella vocal groups. Coming to us from Leipzig, Germany, Calmus will perform a concert of Advent and Christmas music in our beautifully decorated sanctuary on Thursday evening, December 8, at 7:00 p.m. Invite a friend and be part of a truly memorable evening.

Sign Up for the "Tables for Eight" Winter Session 2023. 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. New "Substitutes" are welcome as well. Questions and answers about "Tables for Eight" are on the registration form, and the form is available at the Information Desk or on the church website. Please return registration forms to the Information Desk on or before December 10. Questions? Contact Pam Otto.

Come One, Come all, to Friday Night Gourmets' Hearty Hors d'oeuvre Christmas Party! Join us on Friday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Tim and Kris Goodman's Home, 17206 Fairway Drive, in the Tiburon South Subdivision. Please 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. Questions? Call Kris Goodman or AJ & Judy Sundberg. Please sign up at the Information Center in the Narthex.

Help Heartland Hope Mission Families This Christmas. The angel tree is in the Narthex. Just choose an angel from the tree, shop, and return your unwrapped gift to the church by December 11. Want to do more? You can also adopt a family, shop online, or donate funds to support HHM's Christmas efforts. Learn more 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.



Dinner Servers Needed on December 11. 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 from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. on December 11. We need at least 6 volunteers, and all 6 of our spots are currently open! Questions? Contact Sandi Stuckey.

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!

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.

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.

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.

Scan Here



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
