



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, October 29, 2023

9:00 & 11:10 a.m.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Presbyterians celebrate the tradition that grounds our faith on Reformation Sunday. It is always the last Sunday in October, marking the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

"Modal Fanfare"

Kevin McChesney

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

SILENT MEDITATION

I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.

Martin Luther

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not take the path that sinners tread.

Our delight is in the law of the Lord.

May we be like trees planted by streams of God's living water.

May our lives bear good fruit, loving God and loving neighbor. Let us worship God!

PRAISE AND ADORATION

*HYMN OF PRAISE #275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

EIN' FESTE BURG

(*Please stand, if you are able.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, your law commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Too often we prioritize our own interests above the health and welfare of others. We betray you and our best selves by living without regard for the ways our actions harm our neighbors in need and the planet entrusted to our care. Open our hearts to love. Open our minds to honestly acknowledge our role in wrongdoing. Forgive us, and return us to your way of righteousness.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

KYRIE ELEISON (#551)

"Lord, Have Mercy"

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI (#447)

"We Are Forgiven"

WE ARE FORGIVEN

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn "We Are Forgiven". The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the notes: "We are for-giv-en. We are for-given. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God." The second staff is identical to the first.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Luciano Kovacs, Presbyterian Mission Agency
Area Coordinator for the Middle East and Europe

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God, we pray for your church.

And for all the many Christian denominations and traditions.

As you guided the reformers in times past,

Guide us, O Lord, in the ways you want for us to travel.

As Martin Luther reminded us,

Help us to acknowledge your saving grace.

As John Calvin reminded us,

Help us to look to your word for guidance.

As John Knox reminded us,

Help us to use our church organization to give glory to God.

Help us to claim all the good that came of the Reformation,

And to honestly confess all that was sinful and all that caused sorrow.

Help us, O God, to be faithful to your call,

To create a church that gives glory to you and to your son, Jesus Christ...

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

"Be Still My Soul"

arr. Sandra Eithun

Dedicated to the memory of Jody Watt

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22: 34-46

page 804 of the pew Bible

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"The Greatest Commandments"

Dr. Zieman

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

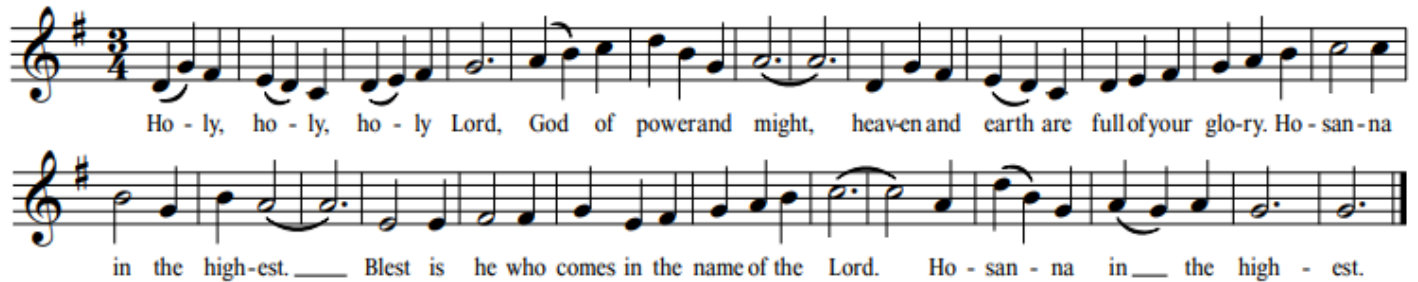
Romans 8: 1, 28, 38, 39

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.

*SANCTUS (#572)

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

(Pavlechko)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. ____ Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in ____ the high - est.

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

"When in Our Music God Is Glorified"

arr. Arnold B. Sherman

* DOXOLOGY (#607)

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDRETH

Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

Holy God, these offerings are only a portion of all that you have given us. We gratefully entrust these gifts to your care and Christ's ministry. May these gifts reflect our love for our neighbors in need; blessing others as we have been blessed. Amen.

*HYMN OF DEDICATION #697

Take My Life

HENDON

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"A Mighty Fortress"

Charles Ore

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Liturgist	Anne Wattles, elder on Session
Music	9:00 & 11:10 Carillon Choir, Larry Frederickson, director; Mark Kanitz, organ
Ushers	9:00: Mike Shannon, Captain, Sherryl Shannon, Darold Bauer, Mimi Bauer, Julie Buehler 11:10 Neal Hubbard, Captain, Richard Meyer, Trudy Meyer
Greeters	9:00 North Door: Paul and Kathy Nickel 9:00 Welcome Center: David and Mary Ann Pederson 11:10 North Door: Paul and Kathy Nickel 11:10 Welcome Center: Nancy Koehler and Susan Price
Information Center	9:00: Linda Miller 11:10: Judy Arms
Childcare Ministry	Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, and Brandon Fisher
Coffee Host	Matt Karges
Flowers	The flowers this morning are given by Judy Arms and children and grandchildren in memory of Henry Arms.

STAFF

Rev. Marshall Zieman, D. Min.	Pastor, Head of Staff	marshall@pcoc.us
Kristi Treu, M.A. Music	Director of Music, Executive Director Vesper Concerts	kristi@pcoc.us
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Christian Fritz	Livestream Team Coordinator	
Mark Kanitz	Organist	
Office Administrator		churchofthecross@pcoc.us
Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min.	Pastor Emeritus	



Announcements

For the week of October 29, 2023

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, October 29 Reformation Sunday

- 9:00 "We Are Americans" Class
9:00 Worship in Sanctuary
10:00 Children's/Youth Sunday School,
Class on Albert Sweitzer,
Luciano Kovacs Presentation,
Coffee Fellowship
11:10 Worship in Sanctuary/Livestream
2:00 JHF/SHF Prepare for Trunk or Treat
3:00 Trunk or Treat

Monday, October 30

- 9 & 11:00 Music and Movement
10:00 Tai Chi

Tuesday, October 31

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
9:30 Staff Meeting
1:00 Tuesday Bible Study
1:00 Active Minds

Wednesday, November 1

- 5:15 Children's Choir
5:50 Chamber Singers
6:00 Cornerstone Dinner
6:30 Bible Study & Adult Education
6:30 Confirmation Class
6:50 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, November 2

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
9:30 PW Bible Study & Sewing Day
10:00 Tai Chi
4:00 BURM Conference
6:00 Carillon Choir

Friday, November 3

- 8:15 BURM Conference

Saturday, November 4

- 8:15 BURM Conference
9:00 B&G Clean Up Day
9:30 JHF Meet at Church/Carpool to Heartland
Hope Mission

Sunday, November 5

- 9:00 "We Are Americans" Class
9:00 Worship in Sanctuary
10:00 Children's/Youth Sunday School, Albert
Sweitzer Class, Coffee Fellowship
11:10 Worship in Sanctuary/Livestream
4:00 Remembrance Service
4:45 SHF Fellowship

Joys and Concerns. Long-time member Jerry Bland passed away last Sunday. His Memorial Service will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. with a lunch following in Fellowship Hall.

Jean Cambridge suffered a fall at home and has been in the hospital for tests. Bob Reid suffered a fall last week and is now recuperating at Old Mill. Polly Wyatt fell and is in Bergan Mercy Hospital. Stan Hale continues his recovery at Brookstone Meadows.

Our guest speaker for today is Luciano Kovacs.

Luciano serves with the Presbyterian Mission Agency as the Area Coordinator for the Middle East and Europe. From Italy, Luciano has great international ecumenical experience through his work with the World Student Christian Federation and his background of the Waldensian Church (our Reformed Church partner in Italy). Luciano is bilingual and has served as an Italian-English translator. He will speak at both worship services today and will offer a presentation in the Fellowship Hall during the Coffee Hour.

Trunk or Treat TODAY at 3 p.m.

Join us on the East Lawn for fun, games, and trunk or treating. Be sure to wear your costume and bring a bucket for your treats.

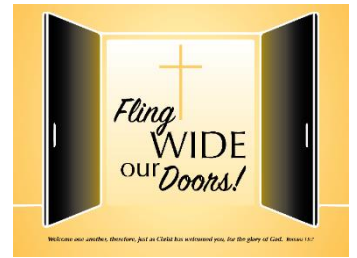


JHF/SHF Kids: Please arrive by 2 p.m. to set up for this event. You will also need to stay for clean up and reset Fellowship Hall. Clean up begins at 5 p.m.

Active Minds on Tuesday Afternoons. The group will have their last day of Whist on Oct. 31. Active Minds will play mah-jongg from 1-4 p.m. Please let Earlene Uhrig know if you plan to play/learn mah-jongg, so we have enough sets. There will also be one table of Sequence in November.

Belarus, Ukraine, Russia Mission Conference in November. Church of the Cross is hosting the 2023 Annual BURM Conference November 2-4, and YOU are invited to participate! Sign up online!

2023 Stewardship Campaign. Thank you to each member and family who has chosen to participate in this fall's Stewardship Campaign. What better way to end the year celebrating Advent and Christmas than to be ready for 2024 with a fully funded budget in place. Together, we are just over 80% of the goal for next year's budget. Each of us is called to this moment, this congregation, this church, and this Stewardship Campaign. God's plan is for us to be together and supporting the ministry and mission of Church of the Cross. Your prayerful consideration to participate is appreciated. I look forward to winding up this year's campaign soon. Thank you for your support!



Presbyterian Women Activities on Thursday, November 2. At 9:30 a.m. in Room 15, Jacque Kluck will present Lesson 3 of *Sacred Encounters*. At 11:30 a.m., all women are invited to participate in a mission sewing day and lunch. There will be a job for everyone, even if you don't sew! Please RSVP to Diane Kratz if you plan to attend the lunch, so we have the right amount of food ordered.

Fall Clean-Up November 4 from 9 a.m. to Noon. B&G needs your help with this fall's clean-up day to prepare our landscaped areas for the winter season. All ages and families are invited to help. Bring your rake, trimmers, work gloves, and smiles! We'll share donuts and beverages, too.

Remember to Fall Back! Daylight Savings Time ends at 2 a.m. on November 5, 2023. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, so you're on time for your church events on Sunday.



Special Visitors for Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, November 5. Join us in welcoming our Syrian refugee family on Sunday, November 5 at the 10:00 a.m. coffee hour. Along with our regular donut holes and cookies, we will have fruit and assorted pastries. Since arriving in Omaha earlier this summer, the family has been getting settled with the help of the refugee assistance coordinators, who will be on hand to introduce the family that day. Please stop by to say "hello" and welcome the family to Omaha.

Ellen Smith in Worship on November 5. Ellen & Al Smith, Presbyterian Mission Workers and long-time friends of PCOC, will be with us on November 5. Ellen is preaching at both services, and you'll learn more about the mission efforts in Eastern Europe.

Remembrance Service

A personal invitation for you to come and remember your loved one



Remembrance Service is Sunday, November 5 at 4:00 p.m.

Our church's Cross Care Connections program is reaching out to members and families to come and remember your loved one during an afternoon service in our Sanctuary. You are invited to stay after the service for continued fellowship at a reception in the Welcome Center.

49ers on November 7. Our speakers will be Tim and Lisa Trudell, authors of *Lost Treasures of Omaha*.

The authors will take us on a nostalgic look at our city's history and trivia. We meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at WHEATFIELDS, 1224 South 103rd Street (One Pacific Place) and order from a special menu provided for our group. Whether you are 49, younger, or older, come join us! Sign up at the Information Desk. Questions? Contact Mary Ott or Judy Sundberg.



Order Advent Poinsettias by November 8. Order red poinsettias for our Sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone you love. The cost for each plant is \$17. Order forms are available online and at the Information Desk. Payment is due with the order form. Absolutely no orders can be accepted after November 8.

Friday Night Gourmets November 10. Let your inner Zorba bring you to the Friday Night Gourmets at the Greek Islands Restaurant, 3821 Center, on Friday, November 10. Our menu includes a variety of six delicious Greek inspired specialties. View the menu and sign up at the Information Desk. Socializing will start at 5:30 p.m. and we'll order dinner at 6:00. Hosts are Kathy & Paul Nickel and Cindy & Ken Nisley. Opa!!

Book Group on November 15. PCOC Book Group will meet Wednesday, November 18 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *The Last Bookshop in London* by Madeline Martin. All readers are welcome! Questions? Contact June Fettig.

Family Mission Project at the Zoo on November 11. The Mission committee has arranged a family gathering at the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium on Saturday, November 11 at 10 a.m. There is no cost to attend, and we will gather in the Enrichment Room to make items for the Animal Care Staff to give to various animals. After completing the projects, families can enjoy the rest of the zoo. This event is limited to 20 people, ages 8 and older. Sign up online. Questions? Contact Sandi Stuckey.



Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House on November 12. Our next date to serve dinner at Siena Francis House is Sunday, November 12. from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. Join our last minute volunteer list, too! Sign up online via the church website. Questions? Contact Keith Allen.

Classic Shrimp Boil Dinner & Fundraiser on November 12. Presbyterian Men are hosting an old-fashioned shrimp boil on Sunday, November 12 in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. Dave Webber, former WOWT Sports Director, will sing and entertain. Enjoy scrumptious 'JUMBO' fresh shrimp (or chicken cordon bleu) served with all the fixins! The cost is \$17 per person. ALL proceeds will go to purchase baby formula for Heartland Hope Mission (HHM). Sign up and pay in advance (make checks to Presbyterian Men) at the Information Desk by Sunday, November 5. Questions? Contact Jim Miller or Frank McMullen.

100th Birthday Celebration for Betty Mack on Sunday, November 12. Sue Meusey and family invite the whole church family to stop by Fellowship Hall between services to have a piece of cake and celebrate Betty becoming a centenarian. Cards are welcome.

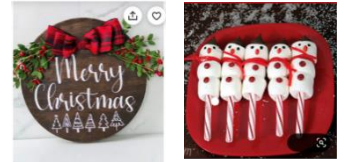


Vesper Concert on Friday, November 17. Tenor Brian Jeffers, together with collaborative pianist

Stacie Haneline, will present a solo recital on Friday evening November 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Originally from Omaha, Brian Jeffers is a NYC-based vocalist and actor praised for his flexible and heroic tenor (Opera News). Brian is the grandson of PCOC member Nancy Hamil. We hope you can join us for Brian's hometown recital debut! As always, the concert is FREE.

Mission Report from Romania and Moldova on November 19. See photos and hear about Karen Morey and Annie Wattle's trip to the region between services on November 19 in the Welcome Center.

Advent Workshop on Sunday, November 19. Our Senior High Youth Group will prepare and serve lunch after late worship, and then the crafting begins. Register online by November 1 to reserve your spot. A couple of the crafts are pictured to the right.



Children's Christmas Pageant on December 3 – Sign Up by November 1. The Children's Christmas Pageant will be on Sunday, December 3 at 5:00 p.m. All children (preschool – 5th grade) will be wearing costumes and singing, and registration is required to participate. Sign up by November 1 if your child will participate.



Advent Dinner on Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for a wonderful Advent Dinner immediately following the Children's Christmas Pageant. The planned menu is beef brisket, roasted potatoes, vegetable, and salad (a Vegetarian entrée will also be offered). And of course, we'll have all the great desserts brought by the Congregation. Bring your favorite dessert to share that will serve approximately eight people. Sign up online or at the Information Desk.

Presbyterian Church of the Cross

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Scan to Go to Our
Online Signup Page

