



# Welcome to Worship

Sunday, October 8, 2023

9:00 & 11:10 a.m.

## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

### PRELUDE

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

Mark Sedio

*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

### CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

"I Will Worship the Lord" (9:00)

John Rutter

"Brother James' Air" (11:10)

arr. Kurt Kaiser

### CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God

**and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.**

There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard.

**Yet it goes out through all the earth and to the end of the world. Let us worship God!**

## PRAISE AND ADORATION

### \*OPENING HYMN #394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation sung to the tune of REGENT SQUARE

(\*Please stand, if you are able.)

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that our confidence is often misplaced. We put our confidence in our abilities rather than in your love. We put our confidence in our belongings rather than in your generosity. We put our confidence in ourselves rather than in you. Forgive us for our misgivings. Redirect us according to your Spirit and your will. Help us to follow your ways and find our freedom in your heavenly calling. Open us to new levels of trust and joy as we press on towards your goal.

### SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### KYRIE ELEISON (#551)

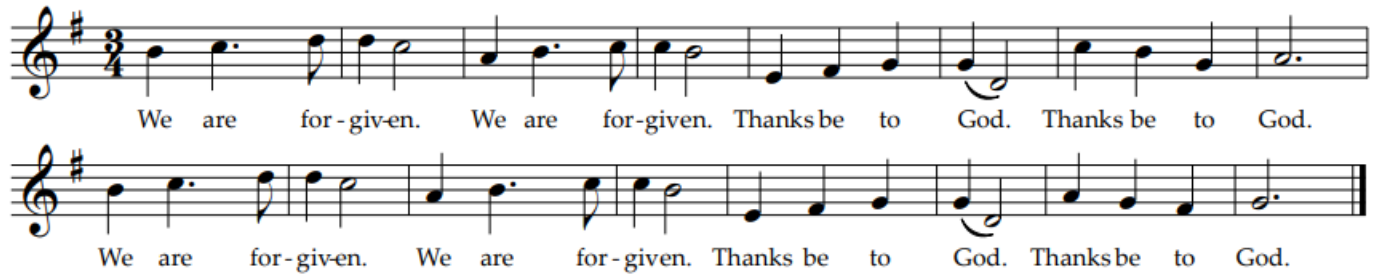
"Lord, Have Mercy"

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



**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRESENTATION OF BIBLES TO SECOND GRADERS**

Silas Boesen	Sawyer Dittman	Hadley McDaniel	Elizabeth Vieira
Brock Bougger	Cosette Ebert	Rylee Spencer	Amelia Vint
Mary Kate Broderick	Addison Hansen Holdren	Brooklyn Spielman	Augustus Vint
Max Darling	Charlotte Kerr	Cole Sturgill	

**\*Congregational Response (to the Second Graders):**

**We rejoice with you as your church recognizes this step in your religious growth. We pray God’s continued guidance for you and your family as you use this Bible in the years to come. We are already proud of you, and we look forward to helping you grow in faith.**

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:10)**

Mike & Linda Hall  
Lance & Betsy deStwolinski  
Gena Marks  
Carol Gasko

Brenda Graumann,  
co-Moderator of the Membership Committee

**MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP**

Casey Ballou (9:00), Josh Murray (11:10)  
elders on the Building & Grounds Committee

**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**

“Seek Ye First” (9:00)  
“Vocalise” (11:10)

Marques Garrett  
André Previn

# PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 21: 33-46

page 803 of the pew Bible

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

SERMON

"Bending Towards Justice"

Dr. Zieman

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from The Confession of 1967, 9-15

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals divine love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful men and women. The power of God's love in Christ to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of God's love.

**\*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

"Jubilate Deo" (9:00)

Peter Anglea

Mvmt. III and V from *English Folksongs* (11:10) Ralph Vaughan Williams

**\* 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**

Sweet Savior, your Word is greater to us than gold, even great gold. May these gifts brought today be a gesture of our gratitude for the riches of your Word given to us. Multiply these gifts and make them like the drippings of the honeycomb to those in need.

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (11:10)**

Mimi Bauer, elder on the Nominating Committee

*The PCOC Nominating Committee brings forth the names of the following church members to serve as the 9-member Search Committee to select our next Associate Pastor. This Search Committee is also known as the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). Today's bulletin includes a photo and a short bio for each individual named below:*

Keith Allen	Jeff Boyum	Jerry Cornett
Brenda Graumann	Don Metzger	Trudy Meyer
Emily Murray	Sheri Sessions	Mike Shannon

**\*HYMN OF DEDICATION #305**                      Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!                      DARWALL'S 148<sup>TH</sup>

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE (9:00)**                      "A Choral Amen"                      Mariane Furman

**POSTLUDE**    "I Love to Tell the Story"    Charles Ore

**After the conclusion of the 11:10 service, please pass through our new Welcome Center to greet our new members!**

**SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY**

<b>Liturgist</b>	Charlotte Hubbard	
<b>Music</b>	9:00	Chamber Singers; Mark Kanitz, organ
	11:10	Patty Ritchie, cello; Kristi Treu, soprano and piano; Mark Kanitz, organ
<b>Ushers</b>	9:00:	Jim Miller, Captain, Linda Miller, Gary Marron, Marsha Marron, John Sparks
	11:10	Tim Goodman, Captain, Kris Goodman, Judy Sundberg, Barb Scanlan, Dan Scanlan
<b>Greeters</b>	9:00	North Door: Paul Nickel                      9:00 Welcome Center: Nadine Jenkins
	11:10	North Door: Bill & Sharon Walsh 11:10 Welcome Center: Pam Swenson
<b>Information Center</b>	9:00	Kathy Nickel    11:10 Nancy Koehler
<b>Childcare Ministry</b>	Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, and Brandon Fisher	
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Danny Whitlow	
<b>Flowers</b>	The flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Kristin Jacobi in memory of Leland Macrander.	

**STAFF**

Rev. Marshall Ziemann, D. Min.	Pastor, Head of Staff	marshall@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	communications@pcoc.us
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 8, 2023

## The Week at a Glance

### Sunday, October 8

- 9:00 Worship in Sanctuary with 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Bibles "We Are Americans" in Room 15
- 10:00 Children's/Youth Sunday School  
Coffee Fellowship
- 11:10 Worship in Sanctuary with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Bibles, Livestream and Congregational Meeting
- 4:15 Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House
- 4:15 JHF & SHF go to Vesper Concert
- 4:30 Vesper Concert – Back Alley Brass Band with Corn Dog Company food truck starting at 4:00

### Monday, October 9

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 6:30 Christian Education Mtg

### Tuesday, October 10

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 Staff Mtg
- 11:30 49's @Wheatfield's
- 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study
- 2:00 Active Minds
- 5:30 Membership Committee Mtg
- 6:00 Vesper Board Mtg
- 6:30 Mission Committee Mtg

### Wednesday, October 11

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

### Thursday, October 12

- 9:00 Presbyterian Men Tour of Claas
- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 12:00 OSS - Serve Lunch
- 6:00 Heartland Hope Fundraiser

### Friday, October 13

- 6:30 Friday Night Gourmets

### Sunday, October 15

- 9:00 Worship
- 10:00 Children's/Youth Sunday School  
Coffee Fellowship
- 11:10 Worship & Livestream
- 4:45 JHF/SHF Fellowship

## **Congregational Meeting Today During the 11:10 Service.**

The Session has called a meeting to vote on these nominees to serve on an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to search for our next Associate Pastor: Keith Allen, Jeff Boyum, Jerry Cornett, Brenda Graumann, Don Metzger, Trudy Meyer, Emily Murray, Sheri Sessions, and Mike Shannon. Read more about them in the bios provided at the end of these announcements.

**Don & Millie's Caring & Sharing Day - TODAY.** Stop by Don & Millie's at 108th & Center to grab lunch from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 8. Tell them you're with PCOC, and 20% of your bill comes back to us to support next year's JHF Mission Trip.

**Serve at Siena Francis House TODAY.** It's our Sunday to serve dinner at Siena Francis House from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. Sign up online via the church website. **Join our last minute SFH volunteer list!** We typically need 4-6 volunteers for our shift, and sometimes we run short. If you are willing to be contacted by Keith Allen (Coordinator) when we are particularly short on volunteers, please join our last minute volunteer list (option available on online signup). You can always respond that you are not available for a date if contacted. Questions? Contact Keith Allen.

**Vesper Concerts Annual Outdoor Concert TONIGHT.** Join us for a party on the East Lawn on October 8! The Back Alley Brass Band will have you up on your feet with their New Orleans-style jazz, but you should still bring your lawn chairs. This event will be a party for the entire family. Bring Your Appetites! The Corn Dog Company food truck will be here starting at 4 p.m. Certificates for a FREE Mini Corn Dog will be given to the first 50 children ages 12 and under (a \$5 value)! Check out their menu at [www.thecorndogco.com/menu.html](http://www.thecorndogco.com/menu.html).



**49ers on October 10 at 11:30 a.m.** Join us at WHEATFIELDS, 1224 South 103rd Street (One Pacific Place) to hear speakers Paula Allen and Jeanne Smay, co-leaders of the PCOC



refugee resettlement team. For reservations and/or questions, please contact Mary Ott or Judy Sundberg. Sign up at the Information Desk.

**Presbyterian Men Outing on October 12.** It would be great if we had another 10 attendees at our next activity, a free, 90-minute guided tour of the “CLAAS Factory” at 8401 S. 132nd St. at 9:00 am on Thursday, October 12. Please arrange carpooling with guys who live near you. We’ll have lunch at 11:00 a.m. at Shirley’s Diner, 13838 R Plaza, and enjoy food and fellowship (pay for your own lunch). Sign up at the Information Desk by Sunday, October 8. Bring a guest, and new members, join us! Contact Gary Fitch with questions.

**Friday Night Gourmets on October 13.** Join us for a spooky Friday Night Gourmets on Friday, October 13, at the Pink Poodle in Crescent, Iowa. We will order from a limited menu that includes prime rib, chicken, and more. Sign up online or at the information desk. Drinks will start at 6:30 and dinner at 7:00. Please indicate at signup if you would like to carpool. Hosts are Mary Reid and Charlene Meyer.

**October 15 is Pantry Sunday!** Bring your donations to Sunday worship next week, or drop them inside the circle drive doors at church anytime.

The most needed items are peanut butter, canned fruit, canned corn, mac & cheese, cereal, pasta. and pasta sauce. The most needed hygiene items are baby diapers (all sizes but biggest need is sizes 4-6), baby wipes, full-size shampoo and body wash, toilet paper, and toothpaste.



**Book Group on October 18.** PCOC Book Group will meet Wednesday, October 18 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonya Purnell. All readers are welcome! Questions? Contact June Fettig.

**2023 Stewardship Campaign.** Our campaign is now underway. Please prayerfully consider how you and your family may participate. Commitment Sunday is October 22. Please return your Commitment Card by that date.

**PCOC GALS on Sunday, October 22.** Join our fellowship group for a cozy themed fall potluck and craft evening from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Voss home (4925 S. 197<sup>th</sup> Street, Omaha). Sign up by October 10 online to bring a beverage, potluck course, and vase/pot for the craft. Questions? Contact Staci Voss.

**Albert Schweitzer – A Modern Saint.** Carl Greiner will teach this class on Sundays, October 22, 29 and November 5, 12. Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965) was an accomplished organist, writer, musician, physician, and missionary. This class will review his autobiography *Out of My Life and Thought* and address two basic questions: How did he put his faith into practice? How did he put his faith into reflection? Sign up online.



**Trunk or Treat on October 29.** Join us on the East Lawn on Sunday, October 29 at 3:00 p.m. for fun, games, and trunk or treating. Be sure to wear your costume and bring a bucket for your treats. Please sign up online, so we have an idea of how many to expect. We are also accepting candy donations. Please donate individually wrapped candy or treats. You may drop them in the bin in the Lobby.

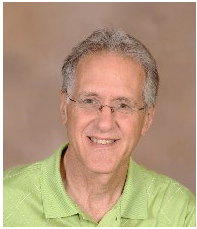
**Belarus, Ukraine, Russia Mission Network Conference in November.** Church of the Cross is hosting the 2023 Annual BURM Conference on November 2-4, 2023, and YOU are invited to participate! We also need volunteers to help us host. Sign up online!

**Back By Popular Demand – Classic Shrimp Boil Dinner & Fundraiser!** Presbyterian Men are hosting an old-fashioned shrimp boil on Sunday, November 12 in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy scrumptious ‘JUMBO’ fresh shrimp (or chicken cordon bleu) served with all the fixins! We will have special entertainment. The cost is \$17 per person. ALL proceeds will go to purchase diapers and wipes for Heartland Hope Mission (HHM). Sign up and pay in advance (checks made to Presbyterian Men) at the Information Desk by Sunday, November 5. Contact Jim Miller or Frank McMullen with questions.

**Are You in Need of Cross Care Connections?** As part of the caregiving ministry of the Deacons, these trained caregivers provide visitation, friendship, prayer, fellowship, support, and assistance to members of Church of the Cross who are in need. This program is for those who are homebound and chatting would brighten their day . . . have a baby and are feeling overwhelmed . . . lost a job and want to discuss the future with an outside person . . . just came home from the hospital and need some encouragement . . . dealing with the loss of a loved one and want to share the feelings of loss . . . facing physical limitations . . . simply need to talk with someone. Please contact Marshall or Rock in the church office to begin your journey with Cross Care.

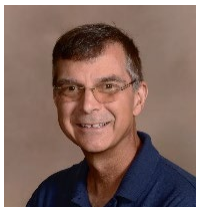


## Meet the Nominees for Our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) . . .



**Keith Allen** is on faculty as a psychologist at the Munroe Meyer Institute at UNMC. He and wife Paula moved here from Ohio (go Buckeyes!), but Omaha is their home. They raised three kids at PCOC and are happy to now have daughter Haley (husband Joe) and grandson Lennox, joining them on many Sundays. Keith loves biking, kayaking, running, reading, chain sawing, birding, and eating sausage-gravy breakfast on his deck in the morning. Keith has been a member of PCOC since 1988, and he has served in numerous leadership and educational capacities over the years. He is excited to be serving on the APNC.

**Jeffrey Boyum** and his wife Angie have one daughter, Marlys. He works in the banking industry. For fun, the family likes to take trips to the national parks. Jeffrey has been a member since 2017 and is currently on the Christian Education committee, teaches Sunday School, and serves as an usher. He was previously an Elder on Session.



**Jerry Cornett** graduated from Benson High School in 1984 and University of Nebraska-Omaha in 1990. He served 20 years in the Navy as a helicopter pilot, retiring with the rank of Commander. He and wife Renee live in Gretna, and they have two grown children, Erika and Paul. Jerry has been a PCOC member since 2005. He has served on the Deacons, Building and Grounds Committee, and as cook for the Advent Workshop and New Member Luncheons.

**Brenda Graumann** and husband Tim have two married sons. They will become grandparents for the first time in February 2024. Brenda is a retired K-2 reading specialist in Millard Public Schools, and she taught first grade for 7 years. Brenda earned her master's degree in Reading Recovery and taught early literacy intervention for 28 years. She enjoys reading, walking, water exercise, and traveling to KC and St. Louis to see their two sons and daughters-in-law. Brenda is blessed to still have her parents, so she travels to Fargo, ND often to visit them. Since joining PCOC in 2015, she has served PCOC as a Deacon, VBS Crafts leader, and Elder. She currently co-moderates the Membership committee. Brenda also helped the Design Committee furnish and decorate the Welcome Center and Narthex. She also serves on the Vesper Concerts board.



**Trudy Meyer** and husband Richard have been married for 53 years, and they have 2 children Joshua (wife Jill) and Jennifer (husband Matthew), and 5 grandchildren (Edison 20, Eliot 14, Jack 14, Berkeley 12 and Scarlett 8). Trudy was born and raised in Glendale, CA a suburb of Los Angeles and is a lifelong Presbyterian. The couple moved to Omaha in 1975 when Richard accepted a call to be the Associate Pastor at West Hills Presbyterian. Trudy has loved the role of "clergy spouse" for many years and the opportunity to connect with so many people. She has worked in real estate since 1983 as a salesperson, manager of a large office, and a training director for large companies. Currently, she works for Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate. She and Richard love to travel,

spend time with family and friends, and enjoy good wine. She also loves a good romance novel! Trudy has been at PCOC since 2019 and is active in worship (has served as a liturgist), adult Sunday School, ushering, Tables for 8, and PCOC GALS.

**Don Metzger** and wife Karen made the big move to Omaha from Lincoln in 1986. Currently, Don is retired after working for Millard Public Schools for 20 years in Resource & Special Education. Don and Karen have three grown children. Daughter Julie and her husband Dave have three boys (Brendon, Colin, and Keaton), and they all live in Colorado Springs. Their son Zach lives with them in Omaha and is active at PCOC. Daughter Laurel and her husband Matt live in Pittsburgh, PA. Don enjoys traveling, camping, watching movies, being with all of you at PCOC, and having a glass of wine or a good bourbon. Since joining PCOC in 1986, Don has served as a Deacon, an Elder, a Youth Group Leader, on the Membership Committee, Cross Care Connections, and VBS. Don is also active in Men's Bible Study, Tables of 8, and choir (both Alleluia Singers Choir and Chamber Choir).



**Emily Murray**, her husband Josh, and daughter Elizabeth moved to Omaha in October 2018 and joined PCOC in 2020. Emily's family is originally from Nebraska, and her father was in the Navy (his memorial service was held at PCOC earlier this year). She was born in California and grew up in Virginia and Florida. Emily attended Elon College in North Carolina and a Master's in Sports Communications from UNL. Emily currently works for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as a public information officer for the five state Omaha Division, coordinating interviews with the media, writing press releases and news stories, and providing educational presentations to members of our communities. At PCOC, she has helped teach Sunday School, been active in Cornerstone, and attended several adult education classes. In her free time, she enjoys running outdoors, watching the Huskers play football, and traveling.

**Sheri Sessions** and husband Rick have two grown sons, both married with families in Omaha. They have 6 grandchildren and one great granddaughter named Willow Joy. Another important part of their family is their Goldendoodle named Cooper. Cooper and Sheri are a therapy dog team and visit Immanuel Hospital and Crown Point Retirement Village each week. Sheri and Rick love to travel and are looking forward to a trip to the Holy Land in February. She is a retired educator, serving in the public schools as a teacher and administrator, and at PCOC as the Christian Education Director from 2009 to 2018. Sheri joined PCOC in 1996, and she has served as an Elder and moderator of the Congregational Life Committee, served on the Mission Committee, and was Coordinator of the Hosting Committee, welcoming volunteer workers to PCOC after the historic floods in 2019.



**Mike Shannon** is a retired AF Lt Col, airline Captain, and instructor at Offutt AFB. Mike graduated from UNL. He and wife Sherryl will be celebrating their 50th anniversary in May, and they have two sons and 3 granddaughters. Mike loves to golf and snow ski. At PCOC, Mike has been a PCOC member since 1983, and he is active as an usher, Elder (twice), and former APNC member.

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### Presbyterian Church of the Cross

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