



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, November 26, 2023
9:00 & 11:10 a.m.

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE Scherzo & Meditation on "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" Janet Linker

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

SILENT MEDITATION

Christ the King Sunday focuses our worship on the cosmic character of Christ's reign over the world. It is a proclamation to all that everything in creation and culture must submit to Christ and an invitation to actively and joyfully submit to his rule. The day is normally scheduled on the last Sunday before Advent. It helps worshipers, who are already thinking about Christmas, to remember that Christmas is about much more than a baby in a manger—it is about a sovereign Christ who came to be the "Prince of Peace."



CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice!

Christ will reign forever and ever.

God has established the world, and God's realm will never be shaken.

Christ will reign forever and ever.

We respond in worship, to the truth that is our Lord.

Christ will reign forever and ever.

The Kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord.

Christ will reign forever and ever.

PRAISE AND ADORATION

***OPENING HYMN #267**

(*Please stand, if you are able.)

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

MADRID

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Shepherding God, you have called to us, but we have not answered. You have sought us out, but we have continued to wander. Forgive us. Remind us. Teach us. Set us free from sin that we might turn toward your love and justice for the whole world. May we learn to walk in your way. Amen.

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". Both staves are in the key of D major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are written below the notes.

We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are for-giv-en. We are for-giv-en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

WELCOME

During the welcome, children are invited to come forward for a time with Dr. Zieman

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34: 11-15

page 702 of the pew Bible

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

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

“Be Thou My Vision” (9:00)

arr. John Purifoy

“For the Beauty of the Earth” (11:10)

John Rutter

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 25: 31-46

page 807 of the pew Bible

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

***PROFESSION OF OUR CHURCH'S FAITH**— *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 1-2, 29, 56

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—which some seek to control, but which others view with despair—we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God!

From the beginning, through all the crises of our times, until his kingdom fully comes,
God keeps covenant forever. Our world belongs to him!

God is King! Let the earth be glad! Christ is Victor; his rule has begun. Hallelujah!
The Spirit is at work, renewing the creation. Praise the Lord!

Jesus ascended in triumph to his heavenly throne. There he hears our prayers, pleads our cause before the Father, and rules our world. Blessed are all who take refuge in him. Our hope for a new earth is not tied to what humans can do, for we believe that one day every challenge to God's rule and every resistance to his will shall be crushed. Then his kingdom shall come fully, and our Lord shall rule forever.

***SANCTUS (#572)**

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

(Pavlechko)

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 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**

"Gigue" (9:00)

Arcangelo Corelli

"Rejoice, the Lord Is King" (11:10)

arr. Mack Wilberg

Please join the choir on verse 4:

Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord and Judge shall come
And take his servants up to their eternal home:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

*** DOXOLOGY (#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.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Generous God, we bless your name because you have called us, claimed us, and sent us into the world to do your will. Receive now this offering, both of our money and our lives. Through these gifts, may the hungry be fed, the thirsty quenched, and the stranger welcomed. Amen.

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #268**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

"Go Now In Peace" (9:00)

"Amen" (11:10)

Don Besig

John Rutter



Go now in peace. Ne - ver be a - fraid. God will go with you each hour of ev-'ry day. Go now in faith,
stead-strong and true. Know God will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you be-lieve.
Reach out to oth-ers so all the world can see. God will be there watch-ing from a - bove. Go now in peace, in
faith, and in love. — A - men. — A - men. — A - men. —

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Janet Linker

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Liturgist

Don Metzger, member of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Music

9:00 Abby Johnson, flute; Mark Kanitz, organ

11:10 Alleluia Singers; Mark Kanitz, organ

Ushers

9:00 Darold Buer, Captain, Mimi Bauer, Mike Shannon, Sherryl Shannon, Alta Empkey

11:10 Dennis Boesen, Captain, Amy Boesen, Bidong Tot

Greeters

9:00 North Door: Karen Saunders

Welcome Center: Barb Haar-Rightmyer

11:10 North Door: Joe and Stephanie Weaver

Welcome Center: Alta Empkey

Information Center

9:00 Kristin Jacobi 11:10 Nancy Koehler

Coffee Host

Lowell Wilhite

Flowers

The flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Craig and Kathy Moore in honor of their 57th Wedding Anniversary.

STAFF

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Organist

Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min.

Pastor Emeritus



Announcements

For the week of November 26, 2023

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, November 26 – Christ the King Sunday

- 9:00 Worship
10:00 Children's/Youth Sunday School, Coffee Fellowship
11:10 Worship
No JHF/SHF Fellowship today

Monday, November 27

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
10:00 Tai Chi
5:30 Personnel Committee
6:30 Session Meeting

Tuesday, November 28

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

Wednesday, November 29

- 5:30 Chamber Singers
5:00 Pageant Readers and Stage Crew
6:00 Pageant Cast, Readers and Stage Crew Rehearsal
6:30 Alleluia Singers
6:30 APNC Committee

Thursday, November 30

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
9:00 PW Sew Christmas Stockings
10:00 Tai Chi
6:00 Carillon Choir

Saturday, December 2

- 8:00 B&G Committee
9:00 Deacons Set Up Advent Dinner
10:00 Congregational Life Committee
10:00 Hanging of the Greens
1:30 Pageant Readers and Stage Crew
2:00 Pageant Cast, Readers and Stage Crew Rehearsal
2:00 GALS Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 3

- 9:00 Worship
10:00 Children's/Youth Sunday School, Coffee Fellowship
10:00 Pageant Rehearsal
11:10 Worship
5:00 Children's Pageant
6:00 Advent Dinner
No JHF/SHF Fellowship today

Joys & Concerns. The church has been informed that Ethel Pauba has been placed on hospice. Please keep Ethel and Roger in your prayers.

49ers on December 5. Our speaker will be Erick Ewing, Executive Director, Great Plains Black History Museum. We meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m. at WHEATFIELDS, 1224 South 103rd Street (One Pacific Place). We order from a special menu provided for our group. Everyone is welcome – whether you are 49, younger, or older – come join us! For reservations and/or questions, please contact Mary Ott or Judy Sundberg. Or, sign up in the binder at the Information Desk.



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! Forms are available online, in the Church Office, and at the Information Desk. The deadline is December 17. Questions? Contact a member of the church nominating committee: John Bennett, John Fettig, Susan Geschwender, Pam Swenson, Mimi Bauer, and Lowell Wilhite.

Presbyterian Women's Gifting Gals Project. For a special project to benefit Heartland Hope Mission's lady clients, the Presbyterian Women's circle is collecting bath and hygiene items in November (soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.) If you would like to help this effort, you can find their donation bin next to HHM's blue bin inside the Circle Drive doors. In December, the group will be collecting scarves and gloves. Thank you! Questions? Contact Cindy Nisley.

Presbyterian Women Christmas Project. The Presbyterian Women have a Christmas Project for the kids through Heartland Hope Mission. They are collecting crayons, pencils, erasers, and candy to stuff Christmas Stockings. Find the poster and donation bin in the Lobby by the office.

Presbyterian Women Meeting on December 7. Presbyterian Women will continue *Sacred Encounters* on December 7 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 15. In lesson 4, Cindy Nisley is taking a new look at the Mary and Martha encounter with Jesus.

Active Minds on Tuesdays. Active Minds fellowship will be playing mah-jongg for November and December until we break for the Christmas holidays. Want to learn or just curious? We play from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the lower-level Great Room. A table or two will also be starting after Bible Study, starting at 2:00 p.m. We will also have Sequence and Dominoes available for these weeks. Please let Earlene Uhrig know if you plan to join us, so we have adequate game sets and cards.

Stewardship Update. If you have not yet participated in this fall's stewardship campaign, I encourage you to make an effort this week. Finance, Personnel, and Session will be working on this to set the 2024 budget in early December. Thank you for your support. - Rock

Tables for Eight. The registration deadline for the Winter Session (January, February, March, April) of Tables for Eight is December 10. New participants (couples or singles) are always welcome to join this fellowship opportunity. You can choose to be a "regular" or a "substitute." Details are on the Tables for Eight on the registration form, which is available at the Information Desk in the Welcome Center and online. For the upcoming Winter Session, current "regular" members are automatically assigned to a new group and "substitutes" will remain on the list unless you notify Pam Otto. If you dropped out last session and want to return as a regular or substitute, please contact Pam.



Serve at Siena Francis House on Sunday, December 10. Sign up to serve dinner at Siena Francis House on Sunday, December 10 from 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. Questions? Contact Keith Allen. Sign up online via the church website.

Book Group on December 20. PCOC Book Group will meet Wednesday, December 20 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *Women Who Built Omaha* by Eileen Wirth. All readers are welcome! Questions? Contact Charlotte Hubbard at charlottehubbard10@gmail.com

Bach's St. Matthew Passion Class Sundays, January 7 – February 11 at 10:00 a.m. Bach considered his St. Matthew Passion his "Great" Passion, his greatest work. To many musicians and music scholars, it is his greatest work. In this class led by Cindy Sloan, we will listen to and study five sections of the Passion focusing on the compositional process, the theological issues presented through the music, and discuss what we all hear and feel in the music. Sign up online by December 25!

Cornerstone Resumes January 10. Looking for something to do on Wednesday nights? Want to grow closer to God and build community with people at church? Then, join us at Cornerstone! Gathering mid-week to study, sing, and sup with your church family is just what you need. Look for more details soon, and register online by January 1.

New Member Discussion on January 14, 2024. Do you know someone who is looking for a church home? Invite them to visit this month — Advent at Church of the Cross is a wonderful time of year to show off what our church has to offer! Our next New Member Discussion will be on Sunday, January 14, 2024 after the worship service. The discussion will last about an hour, and a light lunch will be provided. Sign up online or call the church office to register!

Breast Cancer Support Group. For anyone currently diagnosed with Breast Cancer. Contact Karen Morey or Heather Berry for more information.



Advent at PCOC



We have a wonderful lineup of holiday events for you to enjoy at PCOC this season! Keep reading to learn more about our fellowship, mission, and worship activities for Advent.

Annual Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, December 2. Join us at 10:00 a.m. to assemble and decorate Christmas trees, hang wreaths and garlands, and enjoy treats and music. This is a fun event for the entire family. Sign up online if you plan to attend, so we know you're coming!

GALS Cookie & Candy Exchange on December 2. Let's have some fun and fellowship trading our homemade Christmas goodies on Saturday, December 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Welcome Center. Sign up online! Questions? Contact Staci Voss.

Children's Christmas Pageant & Advent Dinner on Sunday, December 3. The Children's Christmas Pageant starts at 5 p.m., and the Advent Dinner follows. Find the menu details when you sign up for the dinner online or at the Information Desk. **TODAY is your last chance to sign up for the dinner!**

Light the Advent Candles. Starting December 3, we need families to light the Advent candles and read the Call to Worship during the service. Please sign up at the Information Desk.



Friday Night Gourmets Holiday Gathering on Friday, December 8. The Friday Night Gourmets will meet on Friday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Tim and Kris. Please sign up at the Information Desk in the Welcome Center for what you would like to bring to this hearty hors d'oeuvre evening. This is a BYOB event, but the hosts will serve a signature cocktail. For questions call Kris or AJ and Judy Sundberg. It's sure to be a festive evening!

Quiet Christmas on December 10 at 4:00 p.m. This late afternoon service is a perfect way to pause the hectic pace of the season and recenter. Advent is a time to watch, wait, and prepare for the coming of the Messiah. The service will feature scripture and softer seasonal music to create a time for God to find us this season.

Presbyterian Men Bell Ringing on December 16. Help ring bells for the Salvation Army's Christmas campaign on Saturday, December 16 at Hy-Vee on 132nd and Dodge. Each volunteer rings during a 1-hour shift from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will have two ringers at each door (east and west) per shift. This is an easy, enjoyable opportunity to assist the Salvation Army's efforts in helping those in need this Christmas. Please sign up at the Information Desk by Sunday, December 10. Thanks to Jim Chapin for coordinating this activity.

Advent Alleluias & Coffee Fellowship on December 17.

Alleluia and Chamber Singers and Resound Ensemble will be joined by a professional chamber orchestra and guest soloists on Sunday morning, December 17 at both worship services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:10 a.m. The choir will present choral works for Advent and Christmas. The congregation will join in singing beloved hymns and carols.

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



Fellowship Club Christmas Party on December 17. After a several year hiatus, the Fellowship Club is back! Join us for a Christmas Party and gift exchange on Sunday, December 17 at 5:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center. Couples and singles are welcome to attend. Each person attending is asked to bring a gift not to exceed \$25. White elephant gifts are welcome. Each couple or single is asked to bring an appetizer or dessert. Non-alcoholic seasonal beverages will be provided.

College & Young Adult Christmas Party on December 22. The College and Young Adult Christmas Party will be hosted at the home of Chris and Staci Voss on Friday, December 22 at 5:30 p.m. Parents, look for an invitation in your mailboxes and encourage your college-age kids to attend. Please spread the word and don't forget to RSVP to Staci Voss. We hope to see you there!

Angel Giving Tree for HHM Families. Our JHF group decorated the Angel Tree in the Narthex with green and red paper angels on the tree with gift suggestions for boys and girls between the ages of 11 – 14 years old. Please take an angel from the tree, shop for a gift, and bring it back to the church, unwrapped, by Sunday, Dec. 10th. These gifts will be delivered to HHM to be available for parents to select for their children at one of their 10 December Hope Filled Christmas events. You can also adopt a local family in need and provide gifts for their children. If you choose this option, you may sign-up on HHMs website at heartlandhopemission.org or you may provide a monetary donation to HHM through their website or our church offering.

Wooden Mission Giving Tree. You'll find our wooden mission giving tree in the Lobby outside the Church Office. Use the donation envelopes to give to one of the PCOC missions listed on the tree.

Peace Wall. The Jr/Sr High Sunday School class has been talking about peace. They are building a "peace wall" in the Fellowship Hall and would love for the congregation to help build it. The youth will be in Fellowship all between services today and all you need to do is stop by, pick up a "brick" and write or draw what peace means to you.

Holiday Church Services & Closings



Sunday, December 24	Regular worship at 11:10 a.m. only Christmas eve services at 5 & 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 25	Closed
Tuesday, December 26	Closed
Sunday, December 31	Single worship service at 11:10 a.m.
Monday, January 1	Closed

Presbyterian Church of the Cross

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:30

Scan to Go to Our
Online Signup Page

