



# Welcome to Worship

Christmas Eve, December 24, 2023

5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

## Gathering in God's Name

PRELUDE

"Still, Still, Still"

Jeffrey Blersch

SILENT MEDITATION

**IT WAS NOT** suddenly and unannounced that Jesus came into the world. He came into a world that had been prepared for him. The whole Old Testament is the story of a special preparation... Only when all was ready, only in the fullness of his time, did Jesus come.

*Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), The Consolations of God: Great Sermons of Phillips Brooks*



WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND THE CHRIST CANDLE

(5:00) The Friesen Family (Jeff, Camilla, Beckett, and Spencer)

(7:00) The Stalnaker Family (Scott, Amanda, Brynn, Korbin, and Ada)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#83)

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

STUTTGART

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.

CHRISTMAS EVE CALL TO WORSHIP

All God's people - boys and girls, women, men:

**Come and worship!**

Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels:

**Come and worship! Come and worship!**

All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:

**Come and worship, come and worship Christ, the newborn King!**

\*CAROL 133

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELIS

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

\*PRAYER OF ADORATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM

"The Birthday of a King"  
Jacob Denton, baritone

W.H. Niedlinger

## A Service of Lessons and Carols

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

*The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation*

CAROL #129

'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

ES IST EIN' ROS'

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child*

CAROL #100

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1, 3-7

*Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child*

ANTHEM

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"  
Alleluia Singers

arr. Mack Wilberg

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah*

ANTHEM

"On Christmas Night"

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

THE FIFTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

*Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus*

\*CAROL

"The First Nowell"

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those wise men three,  
Fell reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence,  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

THE SIXTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

*The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth*

**\*CAROL #121**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

**OFFERTORY**

Gesu “Gesù Bambino”  
Olivia Hacker, soprano

Pietro A. Yon

**THE SPREADING OF THE LIGHT**

“Candlelight Carol”  
Alleluia Singers

John Rutter

**CAROL**

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluias to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

**BENEDICTION**

**\*CAROL**

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King:  
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

**\*POSTLUDE**

Toccata on “Hark! The Angels Sing”

Paul Frey

## USHERS

5:00 Mike and Sherryl Shannon, Gary and Jean Lynn, Tim Zimmerman  
7:00 Rick and Sheri Sessions, Joe and Stephanie Weaver, Neal Hubbard

## 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
Heather Berry	Christian Education Director	heather@pcoc.us
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Julie Hansen	Office Administrator	churchofthecross@pcoc.us
Mark Kanitz	Organist	
Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min.	Pastor Emeritus	

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

### Worship is at 11:10 only next Sunday

Sunday worship on the morning of December 31 will be held as a single service at 11:10 only.  
Our usual Sunday morning schedule of worship, education and Sunday Coffee Fellowship returns on Sunday, January 7.

# What child is this?

THE PERFECT GIFT.

**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.



**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 scarves and gloves in December. 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. Thank you! Questions? Contact Cindy Nisley.

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

**New Member Discussion on January 14, 2024.** If you are interesting in joining the church, our New Member Discussion will be on Sunday, January 14, 2024 after the 11:10 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!

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## Presbyterian Church of the Cross

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