

2. (Choir) He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

3. (All) For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

4. (All) And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

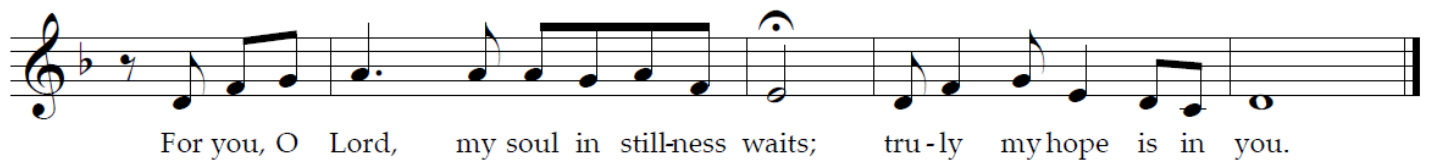
SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

KYRIE ELEISON (#89)

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

Refrain:



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI (#583)

Glory to God

GLORIA (Taizé)



PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD AND PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9: 1-7

page 555 of the pew Bible

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 O Magnum Mysterium David L. Gardner
Alleluia & Chamber Singers, Olivia Hacker, soloist

SCRIPTURE Luke 2: 6-16 page 832 of the pew Bible
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM Fantasia on Christmas Carols Ralph Vaughan Williams
Alleluia & Chamber Singers, Jesse Wohlman, soloist

***HYMN** Joy to the World ANTIOCH arr. John Rutter

1. (All) 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.
2. (All) Joy to the world! The Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. (Choir) 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.
4. (All) 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.

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Alleluia! A new work has come on hand Ghislaine Reece-Trapp
Chamber Singers

Mary Had a Baby Roland Carter
Alleluia, Chamber, & Resound
Tyler Kalinowski, soloist

See Amid the Winter's Snow arr. Dan Forrest
Alleluia, Chamber, & Resound

***CHRISTMAS HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS
arr. David Willcocks

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
*Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God all glory in the highest!

Refrain

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Children, Go Where I Send Thee

arr. Kevin Philip Johnson

Resound; Julia Ramirez & Noah Reestman, soloists

Ramon Carias, Ryan Wilson, & Marshall Ziemann, percussion; Larry Frederickson, bass

A note from Kristi Treu about today's music:

Today's music is sponsored by the monetary gifts and memorials made to the church in memory of Jody Watt (1939-2022). Jody was involved in the music program of PCOC for several decades, singing in the choir and directing and playing in the handbell choir. She was also a significant part of the acquisition and installation of the organ in 1989.

The music selections you hear today come from various sources, composers, and genres from both the past and the present, all working together to tell the story of and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Of particular note, we are blessed to have composer Dave Gardner, who wrote today's setting of "O Magnum Mysterium," as a member of our music program. It was a fun experience to work on this beautiful piece and have the composer in the same room.

We hope your time with us this morning will enrich your journey through Advent and the rest of the season.

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.



Announcements

For the week of December 17, 2023

The Week Briefly

Sunday, December 17 - Pantry Sunday

- 9:00 Worship
- 10:00 Coffee Fellowship
- 11:10 Worship
- 4:30 SHF/JHF Movie Night
- 5:00 Fellowship Club

Monday, December 18

- No Deacon Meeting
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 5:30 Nominating Committee

Tuesday, December 19

- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 1:00 Active Minds

Wednesday, December 20

- 5:15 PCOC book Group
- 5:30 Chamber Singers
- 5:00 APNC Committee
- 6:30 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, December 21

- 10:00 Tai Chi

Friday, December 22

- 5:30 College and Young Adult Christmas Party

Sunday, December 24

- 11:10 Worship
- 5:30 Christmas Eve Service
- 7:00 Christmas Eve Service

Joys and Concerns. After a major ankle surgery and months of rehab, we rejoice that Stan Hale has finally returned home!

Join us for Fancy Fellowship Today at 10:00 a.m. Thank you to everyone who brought delicious goodies to share today, and thanks to our Congregational Life Committee for hosting!

Fellowship Club Christmas Party Tonight. If you signed up, we'll see you for fun at fellowship at 5:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center. Remember to bring your gift and appetizer/dessert. Non-alcoholic seasonal beverages will be provided.

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.

Active Minds last day before holiday break is December 19. Come join us for our last game of mah-jongg. We play from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the lower-level Great Room. Please let Earlene Uhrig know if you plan to join us, so we have adequate game sets and cards.

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!

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.

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.

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. Sing up online by January 1.

Bach's St. Matthew Passion Class Sundays, January 7 – February 11 at 10:00 a.m. In this class led by Cindy Sloan, we will listen to and study five sections of Bach's St. Matthew Passion focusing on the compositional

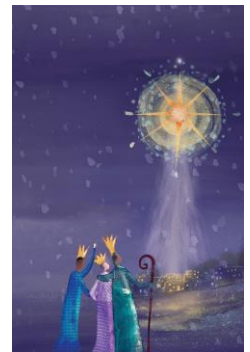
process, the theological issues presented through the music, and discuss what we all hear and feel in the music. Sign up online by December 25!

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 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!

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.



Holiday Church Services & Closings

- Sunday, December 24** Regular worship at 11:10 a.m. only
Christmas eve services at 5:00 & 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

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Liturgist	Janet Wallace	
Childcare Ministry	Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Brandon Fisher	
Ushers	9:00	Tim Graumann, Captain, Brenda Graumann, Kathy Moore Cheryl Bedell, Jeff Boyum
	11:10	Josh Murray, Captain; Joe Weaver, Sue Kiel, Arlin Kiel, Tim Jerry
Greeters	9:00	North Door: Joan Sacco Grosskopf Welcome Center: Ken and Jacquie Kluck
	11:10	North Door: Jill Rath and George Rath Welcome Center: Larry and Judy Keating
Information Center	9:00	Karen Saunders 11:10 Judy Arms
Coffee Host	Congregational Life Committee	

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
Rock Sumner	Business Administrator	rock@pcoc.us
Christian Fritz, Gayle Kerr-McFadden	Communications Team	communications@pcoc.us
Julie Hansen	Office Administrator	churchofthecross@pcoc.us
Mark Kanitz	Organist	
Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min.	Pastor Emeritus	

Presbyterian Church of the Cross

1517 S. 114th Street – Omaha, NE 68114-1799 | Phone: (402)333-7466
 Email: churchofthecross@pcoc.us | Website: churchofthecrossomaha.org
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:30

Scan to Go to Our Online Signup Page





POINSETTIA DONATIONS

Anonymous	In Honor of PCOC Deacons
Irene and Bob Astleford	In Memory of Loved Ones
Charles and Betty Baddley	In Memory of Our Parents
Charles and Betty Baddley	In Honor of Our grandchildren and great grandchildren
Darold and Mimi Bauer	In Memory of Eugene and Ruby Bauer
Darold and Mimi Bauer	In Memory of Paul and Lucille Quinn
Russ Beernink and Diane Witmer	In Memory of Don and June Beernink
Russ Beernink and Diane Witmer	In Memory of Bob and Margaret Dickmeyer
Dennis and Amy Boesen	In Memory of Curtis Boesen and JR and Joyce Ferney
Dennis and Amy Boesen	In Honor of Shirley Boesen and Our children and grandchildren
Jim and Joan Gayle Chapin	In Memory of R. Wayne and Jean Wilson
Jim and Joan Gayle Chapin	In Memory of Sharon Gathman
Jim and Joan Gayle Chapin	In Memory of Wilbur and Leatha Chapin
Reece and Cora Conner	In Memory of Loved Ones
Betsy and Jim Conway	In Memory of Our Parents, Helen & Martin Conway, George & Jessica Vicknair
Betsy and Jim Conway	In Honor of Our children, Sean & Jill Conway, Colin & Molly Conway
Bryce Crawford and Family	In Memory of Catherine Crawford
Alta Empkey	In Honor of Bryce Crawford III
Curt Field	In Memory of Parents, Brad and Gayle Field
Curt Field	In Memory of Parents, Launie and Ruby Lambert
Curt Field	In Honor of wife, Launie Lambert
Carol Futhey	In Memory of Thomas Futhey
Carol Futhey	In Memory of Harry and Astrid Werner
Carol Futhey	In Memory of Robert, Virginia and Della Futhey
Sarah and Jon Grady and Family	In Memory of Harold and June Boker and Katie Kirke
Linda Grohs	In Memory of Jessica and Justin Dorn
Linda Grohs	In Memory of Jim Grohs and Jessica Dorn
Linda Grohs	In Memory of Jens and Donna Thomsen
Ardys Hansum	In Memory of my brother, Paul Hesselink
Ardys Hansum	In Honor of my children and grandchildren
Janet Harley	In Memory of Tom Harley
Charlotte and Neal Hubbard	In Memory of Our Parents
Don and Sharon Marvin-Igel	In Honor of Family – Far and Near
Julia Jorgensen	In Memory of John Jorgensen
Dennis and Beth Kaiser	In Memory of Elaine Penkava

Larry and Judy Keating	In Memory of Our Parents
Larry and Judy Keating	In Honor of Our Family
Kathy and Jerry Klein	In Memory of Loved Ones
Ken and Jacquie Kluck and Family	In Memory of Loved Ones
Gena Marks	In Memory of husband, Robert Marks
Donna Mau	In Memory of Ron Mau
Gayle Kerr McFadden and Dan Kerr Families	In Memory of Parents, John and Dixie Kerr, and sister Cara (Kerr) Tagg
McFadden Family	In Memory of Parents, Vern and Mary McFadden, and brother, Tom McFadden
Lloyd and Charlene Meyer	In Memory of Our Parents
Lloyd and Charlene Meyer	In Honor of Our children and grandchildren
Richard and Trudy Meyer	In Memory of Brenda
Sarah Mooney	In Memory of David Maser
Robert Mooney	In Memory of Michael Mooney
John and Karen Morey	In Memory of Our Parents
John and Karen Morey	In Honor of Our children and grandchildren
John and Kate Morris	In Memory of Robert and Anna Morris
John and Kate Morris	In Memory of Roberta Morris
John and Kate Morris	In Memory of Franz Hornbacher
Lois Morris	In Memory of husband, Bill Morris
Arnold and Karleen Nelson	In Memory of Ralph and Doris Wellman
Gary and Marinell Neuhaus	In Honor of Our grandsons, Elan, Nordwall, Lucas Neuhaus
Cindy and Ken Nisley	In Honor of our Church friends
The Nickel Family	In Memory of Paul and Jean Nickel
The Nickel Family	In Memory of Joe and Edna Meisner
Pam Otto	In Memory of Loved Ones
Ken and Ardell Penney	In Memory of grandson, Griffin Brooks
Ginger Petersen-Britt	In Memory of Charles W. Petersen and Charles W. Petersen III
Corey and Brem Prideaux	In Memory of Ken, Janet and Amy Prideaux
Bob and Gerry Reid	In Memory of Janet Delehoy, Kim Reid's mother
Barb and Dan Scanlan	In Memory of Pat and Ray Scanlan
Barb and Dan Scanlan	In Memory of Dee and Ed Owen and Carolyn Anderson
Karen Smith	In Memory of Bernie Smith
Carol Sorensen	In Memory of Michael Sorensen
Bidong Tot	In Memory of JoAnn and Lee Mutum
Earlene Uhrig	In Honor of Family
Janet Wallace	In Memory of my dear husband, David
The Ron Wax Family	In Memory of Linda Wax
Rodney and Cheryl Whorlow	In Memory of Howard and Marjorie Whorlow
Rodney and Cheryl Whorlow	In Memory of Cecil and Irene Flesher