



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, December 24, 2023

11:10 a.m.

PRESBYTERIAN
Church of the Cross

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Grandioso from Concerto in D Major

Giuseppe Tartini

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

SILENT MEDITATION

"The whole story of Advent is the story of how God can't be kept out. God is present. God is with us. God shows up—not with a parade but with the whimper of a baby, not among the powerful but among the marginalized, not to the demanding but to the humble."

- Rachel Held Evans



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Mike Howland and Linda Matson

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.

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

Philippians 4:6-7

"Do not be anxious about anything,
but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

PRAISE AND ADORATION

*ADVENT HYMN #143

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

(*Please stand if you are able)

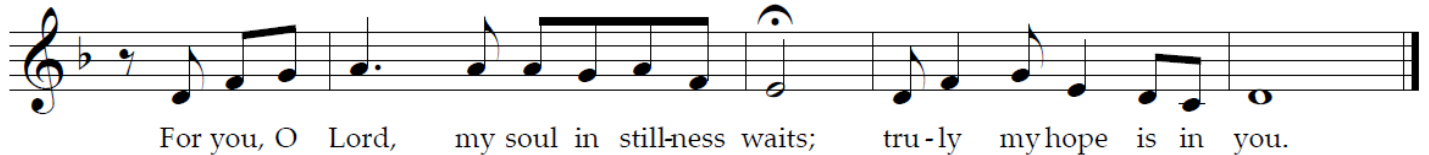
CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. We wonder at the miracle of creation; we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith, empty of hope, lacking in love. This year, let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again. With ready hearts, O God, we ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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)**



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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

HYMN #123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear **CAROL**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Micah 5: 2-5a page 756 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 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus **arr. Robby Davis**

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38

page 831 of the pew Bible

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Mary, the Adventuress"

Dr. Zieman

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, God Almighty

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Ho - ly, ho - ly, God al - mighty, Heav'n and earth Your prais - ses sing!
Shout Ho - san - nas to the Sav - iour, Bless - ing, hon - or to - the King.
In the name of the Lord, the bear - er of light tri - umphs o'er the dark of night
ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Away in a Manger

arr. Lynn Tredeau

*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

Almighty God, you have done and are doing great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you—ourselves, our time, and our possessions - that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

*ADVENT HYMN #113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Jeffery Blersch

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Liturgist

Trudy Meyer, member of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Music

Jason Johnson, trumpet; Marissa Mathia, piano; Mark Kanitz, organ

Childcare Ministry

Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Brandon Fisher

Ushers

Dennis Boesen, Captain, Amy Boesen, Bidong Tot, Alta Empkey

Greeters

North Door: Karen and Owen Saunders Welcome Center: Reece and Cora Conner

Information Center

Kathy Nickel

Our candlelight Christmas Eve services are held tonight at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Please join us!

STAFF

Rev. Marshall Zieman, D. Min.

Pastor, Head of Staff

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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.

Please note: If you would like to have an item included in the Bulletin Announcements, the deadline for submissions is Wednesday night each week. Once an item has been submitted, it will be included automatically until the event has passed. Send your information to communications@pcoc.us. Thank you!



Announcements

For the week of December 24, 2023

The Week Briefly

Sunday, December 24

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

Monday, December 25 - Merry Christmas!

The church office is closed today.

Tuesday, December 26

The church office closed today.

Wednesday, December 27

1:00 ESL Class

Thursday, December 28

1:00 ESL Class

Sunday, December 31

11:10 Worship at 11:10 only.

Joys and Concerns. Let's be praying for all who travel over the holidays, for all who are spending Christmas away from family, for all who are alone, and for all who are ill or grieving the loss of a loved one. Pray for those for whom the holidays are stressful.

Humanitarian Aid for Israel and Palestine Donations. The Mission Committee will send \$5000 from their current budget to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for humanitarian aid in Israel and Palestine. Working through partners on the ground and ACT Alliance, PDA's response efforts will encompass an array of vital humanitarian interventions, including medical supplies, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), food and non-food items, and delivering crucial psycho-social support to individuals. If you would like to join in supporting relief efforts, the church will collect donations through the end of January. Write PDA Israel/Palestine on the memo of your check, or you may give online via the church website by choosing Disaster Relief as the fund.

Coming in 2024...

Giving Envelopes for 2024. New year giving envelopes are now available in the Welcome Center on a table close to the Information Desk. If you don't find your envelopes or would like to use envelopes, please contact Rock in the church office.

Presbyterian Women on January 4. Welcome the New Year with the Presbyterian Women as we continue *Sacred Encounters* on January 4 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 15. Jacquie Kluck is presenting lesson 5, A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus. Our Gifting Gals Project with Heartland Hope Mission in January is collecting socks. We have a bin inside the circle drive, should you wish to help. We appreciate all the donated items, as do the lady clients at HHM. Questions? Contact Cindy Nisley.

Sunday, January 7. We return to our regular schedule of worshipping at 9:00 and 11:10, with a special Coffee Fellowship Hour at 10:00 to honor Gayle Kerr-McFadden for her four years of service as our Communications Director.

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. 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 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!

PER CAPITA – What it is and Why?

All members should be aware of the Per Capita Assessment that our church pays each year.

This money goes to offset the administrative cost for the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. As a connectional church, we need to maintain effective channels of communication, and coordination so that our ministry as Presbyterians works well. The per capita assessment supports this process so that all Presbyterian programs, missions, and ministries may function better.

This year our per capita is \$40.80 per member. What that means is our church will pay \$30,559.20 by February 15, 2024, for our membership at Church of the Cross.

If you decide to give a special gift to cover the per capita cost for your family, it will help the church offset our assessment. That would be:

\$40.80 for a single family member

\$81.60 for a two-member family

\$122.40 for a three- member family

\$163.20 for a four-member family

You are welcome to use the blue pew envelopes. Please drop it in the offering plate or mail your gift to Rock Sumner, Business Administrator at the church office.

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 Church of the Cross

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

**Scan to Go to Our
Online Signup Page**

