



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE Three Advent Chorales J.S. Bach
"Savior of the Nations, Come"; "God's Son is Coming"; "Lord Christ the Only Son of God"
As the prelude begins, you are invited to begin your personal preparation for worship.

SILENT MEDITATION
Advent, the four-week period that leads up to Christmas, is a series of events designed not to delay the celebration of Christmas, but to enhance it. It's a kind of delayed gratification that culminates in a ... satisfaction that is all the richer for the waiting. - Joan Chittister, *Listen with the Heart*



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE
9:00 The Voss Family (Chris, Staci, and Garrett)
11:10 The Fuller Family (Valerie, James, Avery, Maren, and Emmie)

Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#83) Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus STUTTGART

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 67:5-8
"For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.
God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us."

PRAISE AND ADORATION

***ADVENT HYMN #97** Watchman, Tell Us of the Night ABERYSTWYTH

(*Please stand if you are able)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we pray today awaiting the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we look carefully at our lives, we realize that we live with broken relationships. We sometimes harbor ill thoughts toward our friends and neighbors. God, forgive us and help us prepare for the coming of the Lord with our hearts and minds. Renew us, that we may heal one another and our world.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

KYRIE ELEISON (#89) "For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits" MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS

Refrain:



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI (#583)**

"Glory to God"

GLORIA (Taizé)



Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, in excel-sis De-o! Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

WELCOME

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 64: 1-9

page 606 of the pew Bible

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

"There is a flower"

John Rutter

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 13: 24-37

page 826 of the pew Bible

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Don't Doze Off!"

Dr. Zieman

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

based on Psalm 25:1-10

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,
we trust in the Lord's goodness.

We rely on his mercy.

We find shelter in his steadfast love.

In this Advent season of waiting on the Lord,
we walk in the Lord's way.

We follow his example of love.

We keep our covenant promises.

In this Advent season of waiting,

Lord, forget our sins.

Remember your love.

Remember each one of us.

Remember your people everywhere.

In this Advent season of waiting,

Lord, we wait for your salvation.

We wait for your leading.

We wait for your coming. 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

"Rise, Shine!"

arr. Marques L. Garrett & Tom Trenney

***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**

Faithful God, we come before you with this offering, and the offering of our lives. Your promises stand unshaken through all generations. Renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert as we watch for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our judge and Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***ADVENT HYMN #100** My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** "E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" Paul Manz

POSTLUDE "Savior of the Nations, Come" Paul Manz

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Liturgist Roger Utman, elder on Session

Music Chamber Singers; Mark Kanitz, organ

Childcare Ministry Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Brandon Fisher

Ushers 9:00 Gary Lippstreu, Captain; Dave Berry, Brad Burch, Tim Zimmerman
11:10 Jim Chapin, Captain; Paul Holubek, Doug Reid, Inga Wagner, Kim Banat

Greeters 9:00 North Door: Sue Meusey Welcome Center: Nadine Jenkins
11:10 North Door: Tim and Kris Goodman Welcome Center: Charlotte Hubbard

Information Center 9:00 Linda Miller 11:10 Pam Swenson

Coffee Host Ginger Petersen-Britt and Karen Smith. Coffee is served in the Welcome Center today!

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 white prayer request cards are also provided. Prayer requests are confidential.



Announcements

For the week of December 3, 2023

The Week Briefly

Sunday, December 3 – The 1st Sunday of Advent

- 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**

Monday, December 4

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
- 5:15 Personnel Committee Meeting
- 6:00 Lessons and Carols Organ Concert

Tuesday, December 5

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 11:30 49er's
- 1:00 Tuesday Bible Study
- 1:00 Active Minds
- 4:00 Congregational Life Committee
- 6:30 Finance Committee

Wednesday, December 6

- 5:30 Chamber Singers
- 6:30 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, December 7

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
- 9:30 Presbyterian Women Bible Study
- 6:00 Carillion Choir

Friday, December 8

- 6:30 Friday Night Gourmets

Sunday, December 10

- 9:00 Worship
- 10:00 Children's/Youth Sunday School, Coffee Fellowship
- 11:00 Caring and Sharing at Don and Millie's
- 11:10 Worship
- 12:00 Session Meeting
- 4:00 Quiet Christmas
- 4:45 Serve dinner at Siena Francis House
- 4:45 SHF/JHF Youth Fellowship

Joys and Concerns. Bryce Crawford tested positive for COVID this week and was admitted to the hospital.

Children's Christmas Pageant & Advent Dinner TONIGHT.

The Children's Christmas Pageant starts at 5 p.m., and the Advent Dinner follows. Advanced RSVP was required for the dinner, but everyone is welcome to attend the pageant.

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.

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, communion, and softer seasonal music - a time for God to find us this season.

Sunday School Peace Wall. Our middle and high schoolers would like to build a "peace wall" and need the congregation's help. The youth will be in Fellowship Hall between services today. Stop by, pick up a "brick," and write/draw what peace means to you. Thank you for your help with our project.

AGO Concert on December 4. The Omaha Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Invites you to a service of Lessons and Carols on December 4 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This is a free concert and open to the public. Join area organists for an evening of singing traditional carols and hearing scripture lessons. PCOC organist Mark Kanitz is one of the featured organists for the evening. It will be a great way to begin your Christmas season.



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.



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.

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.

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.

Active Minds on Tuesdays. Active Minds fellowship will be playing mah-jongg in 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.

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.

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

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 Goodman (17206 Fairway Drive, in the Tiburon South Subdivision). 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!

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. Please take an angel, buy a gift for a child in need, and return it to the church. Instructions and due dates are printed on each angel. The gifts will be delivered to Heartland Hope Mission where families in need can pick out presents for their children in December.

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.

What child is this?

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

THE PERFECT GIFT. Joy" on a blue envelope.



Bach's St. Matthew Passion Sunday School 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!

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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Email: churchofthecross@pcoc.us | Website: churchofthecrossomaha.org
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:30

Scan to Go to Our
Online Signup Page

