



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE "From Heaven Above I Come to You" Johann Pachelbel
As the prelude begins, you are invited to begin your personal preparation for worship.

SILENT MEDITATION

Faithful God, we rejoice that you have sent your promised Christ. And yet, O God, we confess that we are still not ready for Christ's coming; we are reluctant to live as if the whole earth were your domain. We know the story — the shepherds, the angels, the magi — but we don't fully understand what it means. Awaken us to your Spirit, let Christ's birth make a difference in our lives, and grant us your peace, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Ruth C. Duck in *The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers*

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is here! The Messiah has come!

We open our eyes to see him and lift our hearts to worship him.

We have come to exalt the name of Jesus, our Savior and King,

and to bring glory to God the Father.

He came as a baby in a manger.

O come, let us adore him.

He came in a lowly stable.

O come, let us adore him.

Shepherds brought their worship.

O come, let us adore him.

Angels sang his praise.

O come, let us adore him.

Magi brought their gifts.

O come, let us adore him.

What shall we do?

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord! Amen.

PRAISE AND ADORATION

***HYMN #119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

(*Please stand if you are able)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, all year long we pursue power and money, yet you come in weakness. All season long we covet great material gifts, when you alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake our lives, that we may bear witness to your transforming love. Through Christ, our Lord, we pray.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

KYRIE ELEISON (#121)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

“Gloria”

GLORIA

Glo---ria in excelsis Deo! Glo---ria in excelsis Deo!

WELCOME

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

*HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUMILO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Galatians 4: 4-7

page 947 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

The Call

Ralph Vaughan Williams

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2: 22-40

page 833 of the pew Bible

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Jesus and the Old People”

Dr. Zieman

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Nicene Creed

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and our salvation, came down from heaven, and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man.

*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

Were You There on That Christmas Night?

Natalie Sleeth

*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

God of wonder, we offer you our gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through our efforts, others may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen.

*HYMN #136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION



1. Lord, bid your ser - vant go in peace, your word is now ful - filled. — These

2. This is the Sav - ior of the world, the Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, — God's



eyes have seen — sal - va - tion's dawn, this child so long fore - told. —

glo - ry dwell - ing in our midst, the joy of Is - ra - el. —

POSTLUDE

“Voluntary”

John Stanley

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Liturgist Mary Ott, elder on Session, member of the Worship & Music Committee

Music Kristi Treu, soprano; Annette White, substitute organist

Childcare Ministry Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Brandon Fisher

Ushers Neal Hubbard, Captain; Richard Meyer, Trudy Meyer, Mike Shannon, Sherryl Shannon, Charlotte Hubbard

Greeters North Door: Bidong Tot Welcome Center: Sue Meusey

Information Center Kathy Nickel

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
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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.

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 31, 2023

The Week Briefly

Sunday, December 31

11:10 Worship at 11:10 only.

Monday, January 1 - Happy New Year!

The church office is closed today.

Tuesday, January 2

9:30 Staff Meeting

1:00 ESL Class

4:00 Congregational Life Committee

5:30 Nominating Committee

Wednesday, January 3

5:30 Chamber Singers

6:30 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, January 4

9 & 11 Music and Movement

9:30 Presbyterian Women Bible Study

10:00 Tai Chi

1-3 ESL Class

Friday, January 5

2:30 Nebraska Honor Choir Concert

6:30 SHF Lock In

Saturday, January 6

9:00 Take down Christmas decorations

Sunday, January 7

9:00 Worship with Communion

10:00 Children's, Youth, & Adult SS Class
Coffee Fellowship to honor Gayle!

10:00 Bach's St. Matthew Passion Class

11:10 Worship with Communion

12:15 APNC Committee

4:45 JHF Fellowship, but No SJHF

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.

Active Minds fellowship will not meet on January 2. We will resume the following week, on January 9 in the lower-level Great Room from 2-4 pm. We will be playing an easy to learn card game called Somerset and you can drop in whenever your schedule allows. Contact Earlene Uhrig with questions.

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.

Reception for Gayle next Sunday, January 7. During the coffee fellowship hour, we will host a reception honoring Gayle Kerr-McFadden, who concluded her nearly four years of employment at PCOC in December. Please join us in thanking her for all she's done for the church's communications and technology areas.

The Tuesday Bible Studies Resume January 9. Our Tuesday gatherings resume on January 9 as we study the Old Testament book of Exodus. We are currently in chapter 20, where Moses receives the Ten Commandments. Newcomers are always

welcome; just bring your favorite Bible and join us in the classroom in the Welcome Center at 7:00 a.m. (men's only) or 1:00 p.m. (everyone).

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 the logical 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 – March 13. Join us for food, fellowship, and fun on Wednesday nights for all ages. All are welcome! Childcare is provided from 5:30 – 8:15 p.m. Register and submit payment online by January 1. We hope to see you there!

Presbyterian Men meet Saturday, January 20. On Saturday, January 20th at 9:00 am, PCOC men are invited to attend a continental breakfast and program in the Welcome Center featuring Dr. William Schlichtemeier, Retired Eye Surgeon. Bill will speak primarily on "Modern Eye Care," but will also speak about his Charity Eye Missions in Mexico & Central America performing cataract surgeries, Eye Care for the Elderly, Advances in Eye Medicine & Interesting Treatments. We expect to learn a lot about one of God's most precious gifts, the "Gift of Vision"! You won't want to miss this special program. Please sign up to attend at the Information Desk by Sunday, January 14th. Invite someone to attend with you. Contact Gary Fitch with questions.



Children and Youth Ministry Volunteers Needed. If you love working with children and building relationships with youth, this is the job for you! Contact Heather for ways you can make a difference in the lives of our children and youth.

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.

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.

A Reminder of our Holiday Hours

Monday, January 1	The Church Office is Closed
Tuesday, January 2	Regular Office Hours resume
Sunday, January 7	Regular Sunday Schedule returns

Presbyterian Church of the Cross

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