



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Puer nobis nascitur

Charles Ore

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

SILENT MEDITATION

"He became what we are that He might make us what He is."

St. Athanasius of Alexandria

CALL TO WORSHIP

God spoke the creative Word into the formless void.

The cosmos cries, "Glory!"

From the wilderness, God brought forth new life and liberation.

The plants and animals that inhabit the wild places cry, "Glory!"

A messenger in the wilderness brings good news.

God's people cry, "Glory!"

In baptism, we are united to God through Jesus Christ.

With all of creation, we cry "Glory!"

PRAISE AND ADORATION

*HYMN #152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

(*Please stand if you are able)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

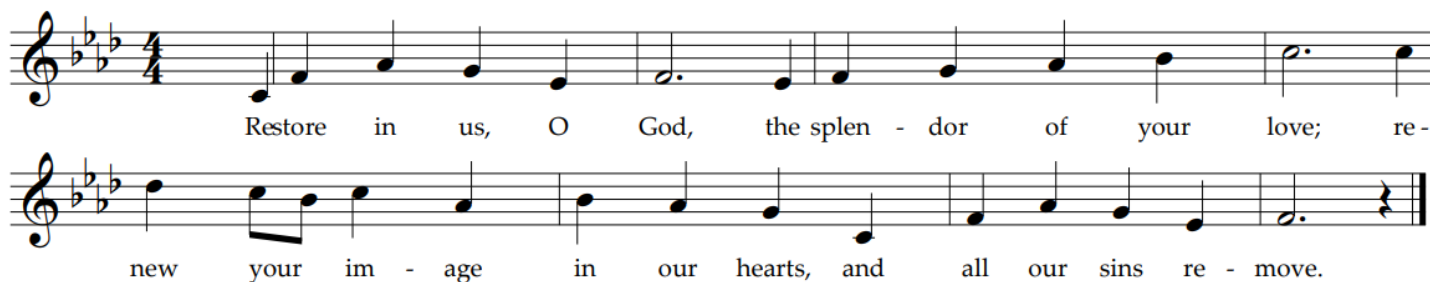
Creating God, we cannot look at our lives, our communities, or the world around us without seeing the fractures and brokenness that reflect the reality of sin. You created the earth and called it good, but it now groans, awaiting redemption and re-creation under the weight of our greed, abuse and carelessness. You created humanity in your image, and called us very good, but we have ignored the image of God in each other. You poured out your love in Jesus Christ, who showed us how to live and how to love, but we continue to make our own path, follow our own desires, and neglect to love others as Christ loves us. Lord, have mercy. Rend the heavens and make us new.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

KYRIE ELEISON (#434)

Restore in Us, O God

BAYLOR

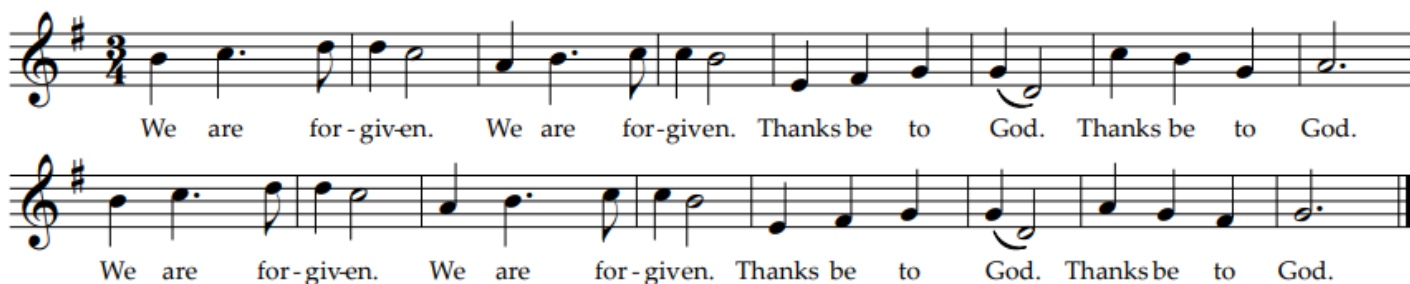


Restore in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON***GLORIA PATRI (#447)**

We Are Forgiven

WE ARE FORGIVEN



We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**MOMENT FOR MISSION**

Karen Morey, for the Mission Committee

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 1: 1-5

page 1 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

Chanson (9:00)

Transcr. Frederick Zimmermann

A Winter Carol (11:10)

Fred Gramann

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD**THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Mark 1: 1-11

page 812 of the pew Bible

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

SERMON

“Rend the Heavens and Come Down”

Dr. Zieman

PRAYER

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Aria (9:00)

Giordani; arr. David Popper

The Work of Christmas (11:10)

Dan Forrest

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from the Heidelberg Catechism (1563), 4.066

Q. What are sacraments?

A. Sacraments are visible, holy signs and seals. They were instituted by God so that by our use of them he might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel, and seal that promise. And this is God’s gospel promise: to grant us forgiveness of sins and eternal life by grace because of Christ’s one sacrifice accomplished on the cross.

***SANCTUS (#572)**

Holy, Holy, Holy

SANCTUS (Pavlechko)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na
in the high-est. — Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in — the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SERVING OF THE ELEMENTS

Please come forward as directed by an usher. All baptized Christians are encouraged to partake – by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into the cup. Gluten-free bread is at the station closer to the pulpit.

If you are unable to come forward, an elder will serve you in the pew.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Sonata in F major (9:00)

Dall’Abaco; arr. D. Young

New Year (11:10)

John Rutter

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We bless you, O God, for gifts of bread and cup, for sustaining us in hope, every day of our lives. We pray for your strength to prepare us now for your service as we offer to you lives of witness and worship in the world you have made. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN #159

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

KINGSFOLD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE (11:10)**

A Choral Amen

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Fanfare on "In Dulci Jubilo"

Paul Fey

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Liturgist

Jean Lynn, Moderator of the Personnel Committee

Music

9:00 Bill Ritchie, double bass; Mark Kanitz, organ

11:10 Chamber Singers; Mark Kanitz, organ

Elders Serving Communion:

9:00

11:10

Ushers

9:00 Gary Lippstreu, Captain; Dave Berry, Brad Burch, Tim Zimmerman

11:10 Jim Chapin, Captain; Paul Holubeck, Doug Reid, Inga Wagner, Kim Banat

Greeters

9:00 North Door: Barbara Haar Rightmyer

11:10 North Door:

9:00 Welcome Center: Dave and Mary Ann Pederson

11:10 Welcome Center: Alta Empkey

Coffee Host

Congregational Life Committee

Information Center

9:00 Karon Saunders 11:10 Kathy Nickel

Childcare Ministry

Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Brandon Fisher

Flowers

The flowers in the chancel are given by Paul and Kathy Nickel in honor of their grandchildren, Sam, Gabe, Lucas, Elsie and Henry.

STAFF

Rev. Marshall Ziemann, 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 January 7, 2024

The Week Briefly

Sunday, January 7

- 9:00 Worship with Communion
- 10:00 Children's & Youth SS Classes
- 10:00 Coffee Fellowship to honor Gayle!
- 10:00 Bach's St Matthew Passion Class
- 11:10 Worship with Communion
- 12:15 APNC Committee
- 12:15 Nominating Committee
- 4:45 JHF Fellowship, but No SHF

Monday, January 8

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 6:00 Worship and Music Committee
- 6:30 Building and Grounds Committee
- 6:30 Christian Education Committee

Tuesday, January 9

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 1:00 Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
- 2:00 Active Minds
- 5:30 Membership Committee
- 6:30 Mission Committee

Wednesday, January 10

- 5:15 Children's Choir
- 5:50 Chamber Choir
- 6:00 Dinner
- 6:30 Bible Study and Adult Education
- 6:30 Confirmation Class
- 6:50 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, January 11

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 11:30 Educators Lunch and Meeting
- 12:00 OSS Serve Lunch

Saturday, January 13

- 8:30-11 Organ Vesper Board

Sunday, January 14

- 9:00 Worship
- 10:00 Children's & Youth SS Classes
- 10:00 Coffee Fellowship
- 10:00 Bach's St Matthew Passion Class
- 11-2 Caring and Sharing at Don and Millie's
- 11:10 Worship
- 12:00 New Member Discussion
- 4:15 Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House
- 12-9 pm SHF/JHF PMRV Youth Outing

Joys and Concerns. Pray for Nancy Quine and family on the death of Nancy's father, Richard Heyne, who passed away last Saturday. He was a life long Presbyterian serving as both an Elder and a Deacon. Services were held on Friday in Pender, Nebraska.

Reception for Gayle today at 10:00. 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.

Epiphany Stars today. We invite you to take an Epiphany star from the baskets in the Narthex as you leave worship. Each star holds a single word. Take your star home and place it in a place where it will catch your eye and make you pause for a moment of reflection throughout the year. How will the star word speak to you and how will you be led by a star 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.

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).

Cornerstone Resumes January 10 – March 13. Join us for food, fellowship and fun on Wednesday nights for all ages. Childcare is provided from 5:30 – 8:15 p.m. Register and submit payment online by January 1. We hope to see you there!

Nordic Choir Housing. The Nordic Choir from Luther College is coming to PCOC on Thursday, February 1st, to perform a concert at 7:00 p.m. We need to house about 66 students for the night. Do you have room for 2-4 singers? If so, please sign up on the church website. More information about hosting can be

found on the signup form.

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 at 402-639-1988 or garyfitch@cox.net with questions.

Lenten Study for 2024. This year's churchwide Lenten Study will begin February 18. We'll be studying Magrey DeVega's book, Savior, What the Bible Says about the Cross. By exploring the mystery of salvation through the cross, we can deepen our love for God and others and strengthen our commitment to follow Jesus. Register online by February 1 or stop by the Information Desk if you need assistance registering.



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.

Presbyterian Church of the Cross

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