GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE Contemplation Claude Debussy

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

SILENT MEDITATION

"Things can be awful and embarrassingly dysfunctional—and God can still move. God can still do great things. I really believe that at the heart of the stories of the patriarchs, and the whole of the history in the book of Genesis, is the truth that God does things through the lives of the strangest and most awkward of people. When God looked out over the whole world to find the people he would call his own—the people he would bless with the privilege of being a blessing to the whole world—he chose what often times looks like the "B" team. The replacements. The ones who didn't even have the illusion of having their act together. He chose people—Just. Like. Us."

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 111:1-4

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds, The Lord is gracious and merciful. Let us worship God!

PRAISE AND ADORATION

*HYMN #65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

(*Please stand, if you are able)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from death to life and sent his Spirit to be with us always. We confess that we have not trusted in the truth of that Spirit to enliven our hearts, to set us in the ways of justice, and to free us from fear. We have turned away from the gift of Christ's presence. Forgive us, and turn our hearts back to you, that we may be your faithful and loving people, walking in the footsteps of the One who came to transform the world.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

KYRIE ELEISON (#551)

Lord, Have Mercy

LAND OF REST

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI (#240)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks!

ALLELUIA NO. 1





WELCOME

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

THE OLD TESTAMANT READING

1 Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 3-14

page 265 of the pew Bible

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #394

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

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 Fount of Every Blessing

Roland E. Martin

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 6: 51-59

page 868 of the pew Bible

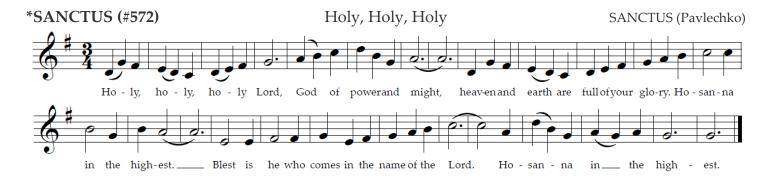
OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Confession of 1967

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all. The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which begins with the apostles and continues through all generations.

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of the human mind. Human thought ascribes to God superlatives of power, wisdom, and goodness. But God reveals his love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinners. The power of God's love to transform the world discloses that the Redeemer is the Lord and Creator who made all things to serve the purpose of his love.



PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

All Praise to God for Song God Gives

Dale Wood; arr. Allen Pote

*DOXOLOGY (#609)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!

alleluia, alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We present these gifts, O Lord, asking that you will use them through the church to spread the abundance of your love and justice in the world, that all may taste your goodness. Amen.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE The Lord Bless You and Keep You Peter Lutkin

*POSTLUDE Procession Charles Ore

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Music Summer Choir; Patty Ritchie, cello; Mark Kanitz, organ

Childcare Ministry Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster

Ushers Tim Graumann, Captain; Brenda Graumann Bidong Tot, Alta Empkey,

Brentleigh Bowen

Greeters North Door: Karen Smith Welcome Center Door: Nancy Koehler

Information Center Karen Saunders

Coffee Host Inga Wagner

STAFF

Rev. Marshall Zieman, D. Min. Pastor, Head of Staff marshall@pcoc.us Joshua Garry, M.Div. **Associate Pastor** josh@pcoc.us Kristi Treu, M.A. Music Director of Music, Executive Director Vesper Concerts kristi@pcoc.us Christian Education Director Heather Berry heather@pcoc.us **Business Administrator Rock Sumner** rock@pcoc.us Christian Fritz **Communications Coordinator** communications@pcoc.us Julie Hansen Office Administrator churchofthecross@pcoc.us Mark Kanitz mark@pcoc.us Organist

Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min. Pastor Emeritus

Presbyterian Church of the Cross

1517 S. 114th Street - Omaha, NE 68144-1799

Phone: (402)333-7466 | Fax: (402)697-9084 | Email: churchofthecross@pcoc.us | Website: churchofthecrossomaha.org

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, August 18 Pantry Sunday

10:00 Worship

11:00 Coffee Fellowship in Welcome Center

Monday, August 19

9 & 11 Music and Movement

10:00 Tai Chi

11:00 Bob Reisser Memorial Service and lunch

5:00 Cross Care Summer Social at Marron's

6:30 Deacons

Tuesday, August 20

9:00 Staff Planning Meeting – office closed

1:30 Active Minds5:30 Finance Committee

Wednesday, August 21

5:15 PCOC Book Group

Thursday, August 22

9 & 11 Music and Movement

10:00 Tai Chi

Saturday, August 24

9:00 Usher Training with breakfast

Youth Retreat at Camp Calvin Crest

Sunday, August 25

10:00 Worship

11:00 Coffee Fellowship in Welcome Center

Summer Schedule continues thru September 1

Single Worship Service at 10 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship at 11 a.m. in the Welcome Ctr. No Sunday School

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Joys and Concerns.

The flowers in the chancel are given by Kristin Jacobi in memory of Mary Kratoska and also by Russ Beernink and Dianne Witmer in memory of Don and June Beernink.

The rosebud in the chancel is in celebration of the birth of Dempsey Ellizabeth Mendick, born on August 10. Parents are Haley and Joe Mendick and big brother Lennox. Grandparents are Paula and Keith Allen.

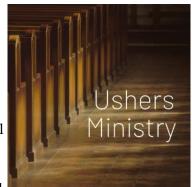
Donna Turner had knee replacement surgery this week.

SHF Car Wash was a Success!

Thank you to all who donated to the SHF Car Wash last Sunday. Some church members were happy to let us wash their cars, while some paid us to not wash their cars! The youth worked pretty much non-stop for two hours and they collected a recordbreaking \$1,030 in donations! Once again, thank you so much for supporting our youth. This money will go towards their mission trip to Estes Park, Colorado next summer, where they will be working at Pastor Christine's church.

Usher Training Breakfast is next Saturday, August 24

Calling all ushers – past, present and future – Please join us in the Welcome Center from 9:00 – 11:00 as we get ourselves organized for the coming program year. We will review the newly updated Ushers



Manual, talk about Safety Procedures, look at the different usher teams, and familiarize ourselves with how to utilize the Welcome Center. If you're interested

in becoming an usher, please attend this informative time together. We'll begin with coffee and breakfast served in the Welcome Center at 9:00!

Music Department Season Kick-Off Dinner September 2

Whether you participate in the adult choirs, children's choirs, the brass group, the handbell choir, or are a solo singer or instrumentalist, you and your family are invited to kick off the season with dinner and fellowship on Monday, September 2, from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The church will provide the main dish, and we ask you to bring a side dish or dessert. Please sign up on the church website by August 29.

Card Shower for former member Mary Kern's 90th birthday August 27

You are invited to send a birthday card to Mary Kern for her 90th birthday. Please send your card to her home at 32 Hastings Lane Boynton Beach, FL 33426. Her family thanks you!

Summer Ushers Needed. Looking for a way to serve the church and give our regular ushers a break? Sign up to usher on a summer Sunday that works for you! We are looking for ushers through Labor Day Sunday, Sept.1.

Summer Construction. The summer renovation of the Fellowship Hall is in full swing and should last through August. We are getting new lights, new flat screens, and a new ceiling. This week, the Circle Drive was resurfaced with entirely new asphalt.

Local Disaster Relief. If you wish to offer financial support toward disaster relief in our area you may do so by designating on the memo line of your check to PCOC, "PMRV PDA."

COMING IN THE FALL

Sunday, 1 - A Brunch to celebrate TWO ten-year service anniversaries at PCOC!

Yes, it's true...Kristi will celebrate her ten years on August 1, 2024, while Rock is close behind with a ten-year anniversary on October 1, 2024. The Personnel Committee of PCOC, in partnership with Pastor Marshall Zieman invite you to brunch on Sunday September 1 at 11:00 a.m. (following the final single service of summer) in the newly refreshed Fellowship Hall. No need to donate to a gift for each - those items have already been covered. However, please feel free to bring congratulatory cards to the brunch, or if unable to attend, please drop those by the office the week prior to the event. We are so blessed to celebrate these two great individuals who exemplify a servant attitude on a daily basis. Questions? Please feel free to e-mail Jean Lynn or by phone. Hope to see you there!

Presbyterian Women's Circle

Just as other groups are gearing up to begin the new year of activities here at PCOC, so is our Presbyterian Women's Circle. All women in the church are considered members and are welcome to attend. We meet at 9:30 on the first Thursday of the month from September through May. This year we plan to meet in the Courtyard Room in the Welcome Center. Our study this year will be "Growing Older and Wiser" by Dale and Sandy Larsen. It features various Bible passages and related discussion questions. Some women in the group volunteer to lead the lessons. If you haven't come before but would like to explore with other women what the Bible says and how it relates to our lives today, we'd love to see you. Please contact our leader, Cindy Nisley by email or phone if you're interested.

49ers on September 3

Our speaker will be Kieran Anderson, Director of Information and assistance, along with Mary Parker, from Eastern Nebraska office on Aging. ENOA provides intermittent services for older adults to help remain in their homes, for as long as possible, they will talk about the services they provide, and bring some services to show the group. We meet for lunch at 11:30 am at WHEATFIELDS, 1224 South 103rd Street (One Pacific Place). We order from a special menu provided for our group. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are 49, younger or older. Come join us. Reservations and/or questions, please contact Mary Ott or Judy Sundberg. We will have a sign-up sheet at the information center desk in a white 3 ring binder.

Children and Youth Sunday School Begins September 8

Preschool Sunday School

Our Preschool Sunday School Class is designed for three, four, and five-year-olds that haven't attended kindergarten. The class meets in Room 7, which is adjacent to the Childcare Room, in the hallway connecting the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. The class is taught by Anna Flairty and Anne Wattles. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 10:50 a.m. The class will be learning from the curriculum, *Growing in Grace and Gratitude*, a publication from the PC(USA).

When your children are in class, they will gather to explore and respond to God's grace and be sent out to love and serve God by being:

- Rooted in the foundation of Presbyterian identity where God's grace and our gratitude are the heartbeat of our faith, life, and worship;
- Invited to discipleship that inspires them to learn and practice hospitality, generosity, and love; and
- Encouraged to reach beyond Sunday mornings and church walls to live their lives as an expression of God's grace.

If your child is most comfortable with a parent or grandparent attending class with them, we encourage that!

Bible Explorers Sunday School

Our Bible Explorers Program is designed for elementary aged children who are in kindergarten - 5th grade. The children are divided by age into four groups: kinder and 1st grade, 2nd grade, 3rd grade, and 4th and 5th grade. The children enjoy the rotation-based curriculum, *Deep Blue*, which is published by Cokesbury. Children visit learning stations each week and explore the theme from many different angles: Art, Games, Science, Drama, Missions, Spiritual Practices, and Cooking. Parent volunteers lead the classes.

At 10:00 a.m., the children meet as a group for an opening activity led by Sue Thomas downstairs in the Gathering Space. Then the classes split up and move to their assigned rooms. Each group has a dedicated adult assigned to them called a Shepherd. Shepherds lead their groups to the correct room and stay with them during class. At 10:50 a.m., Shepherds guide the children back to the Gathering Space where parents will pick them up.

Youth Sunday School

Our Youth Sunday School Classes are divided into two classes, $6^{th} - 8^{th}$ grade, and $9^{th} - 12^{th}$ grade. Both classes will be using the Feasting on the Word Curriculum. The curriculum follows the Revised Common Lectionary and is published by PC(USA). Holly Baddley will be leading the Junior High Class ($6^{th} - 8^{th}$ grade). They will meet downstairs in Room 8. Dan Kerr will be leading the Senior High Class ($9^{th} - 12^{th}$ grade). They will meet downstairs in the Great Room. Youth are invited and encouraged to attend each week as we dive a little deeper into God's Word and how we can apply the Bible's teachings to our own lives. Can't make it every week? That's ok! Come when you can. You are *always* welcome, no matter how long you've been gone.

Grab a snack & a drink in Fellowship Hall and come on down for class at 10:00 a.m. Feel free to bring a friend!

Mission Mixer - in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 8

Join us on September 8, the first Sunday we return to two services for a mission mixer! This event offers a chance to connect with the Mission Committee and learn firsthand the impact of your mission dollars. Enjoy coffee, treats, and insightful discussions about the missions the committee champions. We'll gather while the kids are in Sunday School for a fun mix of fellowship and mission updates. Come to enjoy coffee and to explore how together we're making a difference locally and beyond!

The Tuesday Bible Studies resume Tuesday, September 10

We will begin our fall session on Tuesday, September 10, studying the book of Romans. Consider joining these two robust groups for an informative and fun fall study! Register online or in the Welcome Center.

Friday Night Gourmets September 13

Friday Night Gourmets will be opening its 2024-2025 dining-out season on September 13 at Farmer Brown's, 2620 River Rd Dr., Waterloo NE (402-779-2353). We will be ordering off their party menu which includes steak/prime rib, chicken, and seafood. Social Hour is at 6:30 pm and Dinner at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to join us for this September "Tradition" of great food, friends, and lively conversations. Check Information Desk for sign-up sheet Please sign up by Sunday, September 8. Hosts: Gene/Verta Pugh and Curt Field/Launie Lambert. Contact hosts with any questions

Sunday Adult Education Begins September 15 – Register Online Now

Theologians, Composers, Spirituality and Icons of Sacred Music, led by Cindy Sloan Sundays at 10:00 a.m. from September 15 – October 27 **Let Justice Roll Down,** led by Kathy Moore, Patty Ritchie, and Earlene Uhrig <u>Thursdays</u> 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on October 3, 10, 17, 24

Agape for All Speaker Series - Guest Speakers TBD

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. on November 3, 10, & 17

Coping with Grief, presented by Carl Greiner Sunday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m.

Attend the Pow Wow at Fort Omaha September 21

Metropolitan Community College - on the Fort Omaha Campus Parade Ground (5300 N 30th St.) Attend this inspiring and educational gathering! Experience the thrilling entrance of the tribes, in full ceremonial dancing attire at 1:00 pm. Optional - after the Opening Ceremony you can enjoy craft demonstrations, classes, and delicious food. Contact Earlene Uhrig to get details when more become available.

Wednesday Night Cornerstone - Register Online Now

Registration for the fall semester of Cornerstone has begun! For our newcomers, Cornerstone is our mid-week program for all ages. We hope to see you at Bible Study, Confirmation Class, Choir, and of course, dinner! All are welcome, but we ask that you register online by September 1 so we can plan for dinner and class supplies. Cornerstone begins September 11 and ends on November 13.

Choirs

5:15 – 6:00 p.m.	Children's Choir for 1st – 7th graders
5:50 – 6:45 p.m.	Chamber Singers
6:50 – 8:20 p.m.	Alleluia Singers

Dinner is served between 6 – 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Childcare is provided from 5:30 – 8:15 p.m.

Bible Study

6:30 – 7:15 p.m.	Preschool & Kindergarten Class
6:30 – 7:15 p.m.	1^{st} – 4^{th} Grade Class
6:30 – 7:15 p.m.	5 th – 7 th Grade Class
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class (8th Grade) led by Rev. Marshall Zieman
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.	Adult Education*

*Adult Cornerstone Class

Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life by Harold Kushner, led by Rev. Kirk Ryckman Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. from September 11 – November 13