

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE Romantische Stücke Antonín Dvořák

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

SILENT MEDITATION

Worship is a time to rest from our labor. A time to rest from the pace and stress of our everyday lives. A time for us to find our rest in God, and in God's complete love for us and acceptance of us. As you reflect on the summer: What are you grateful for? What do you regret? What did you learn? Think forward to the coming program year and the season of autumn. What do you need from God? What does God need from you?

CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord, you have searched us and known us.

You know the paths we choose to travel; you know when we lie down to rest.

You discern what we are thinking from far away.

You are well acquainted with all our ways.

Let us worship the Lord our God,

who knows us and accompanies us so completely.

adopted from Psalm 139

PRAISE AND ADORATION

*HYMN #630 (*Please stand, if you are able) Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADERS' HYMN

CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that our words and actions do not always line up. We are quick to confess our faith, but slow to live it. We sing praise to your name but tend to ignore the needy. Change us, O God. By your grace, transform us. Root out the selfishness that hardens our hearts and replace it with compassion and generosity. Empower us by your Spirit that we might be doers of your word and not hearers only. All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

thanks to the

ris - en Lord.

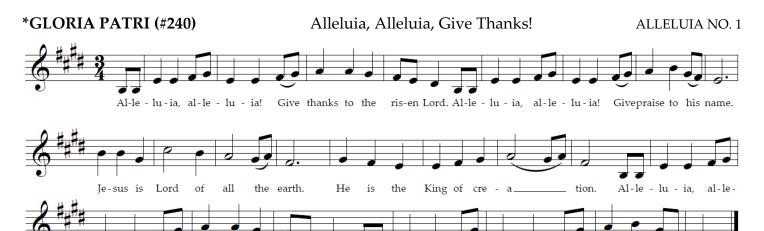
KYRIE ELEISON (#551)

"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



A1 - le

WELCOME

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

- lu - ia,

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

ia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

lu

THE NEW TESTAMANT READING

James 1: 17-27

page 980 of the pew Bible

his

praise to

*HYMN #717

For the Life That You Have Given

PLEADING SAVIOR

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

Partita No. 2 in D minor

J.S. Bach

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23

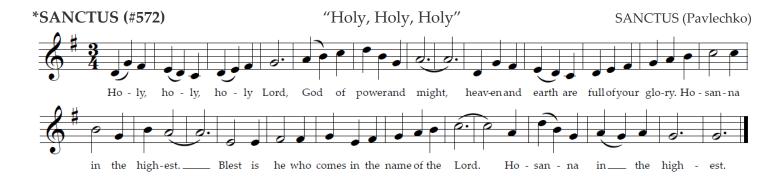
page 818 of the pew Bible

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from the Barmen Declaration

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to God's Creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords – areas in which we would not need justification or sanctification through him.



PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Partita No. 3 in E Major

J.S. Bach

*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

Generous God, we return to you these gifts, not only of our resources, but also of our lives. Sanctify us and use us to work out your purposes in the world. Amen.

*HYMN #365

"God Reigns! Let Earth Rejoice!

MARION

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

A Festival Fanfare (from the 4th Concerto) J.S. Bach; arr. VanDenman Thompson

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Music Thomas Kluge, violin; Kristi Treu, piano; Mark Kanitz, organ

Childcare Ministry Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster

Ushers Mike Howland, Captain; Julie Buehler, Alta Empkey, Darold Bauer, Mimi Bauer

Greeters North Door: Chad, Emily, Max, and Luke Justice

Welcome Center Door: Charles and Ruth Madison

Information Center Mary Ann Pederson

Coffee Host Danny Whitlow

STAFF

Pastor, Head of Staff Rev. Marshall Zieman, D. Min. 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 **Heather Berry Christian Education Director** heather@pcoc.us **Rock Sumner Business Administrator** rock@pcoc.us communications@pcoc.us Christian Fritz **Communications Coordinator** Office Administrator churchofthecross@pcoc.us Julie Hansen Mark Kanitz Organist mark@pcoc.us

Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min. Pastor Emeritus

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The Week at a Glance

Sunday, September 1

10:00 Worship

11:00 Brunch in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate

Kristi Treu and Rock Sumner on their

10-year anniversaries!

Monday, September 2 – Labor Day

Office Closed

5:30 Choir Dinner in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 3

9:30 Staff Meeting

11:30 49ers at Wheatfield's

1:30 Active Minds

6:00 Worship and Music

Wednesday, September 4

6:30 Confirmand/Parent/Mentor Meeting

Thursday, September 5

9 & 11 Music and Movement

9:30 Presbyterian Women Bible Study and

Meeting

10:00 Tai Chi

Sunday, September 8

9:00 Worship

10:00 Coffee Fellowship

10:00 Children and Youth SS classes

10:00 Mission Mixer in Fellowship Hall

11:10 Worship

4:15 Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House

4:45 Youth Fellowship

Fall Schedule Returns September 8

Worship Services at 9:00 & 11:10 a.m. Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship at 10 a.m. Office Hours: 9:00 to 4:30 Monday-Friday

Joys and Concerns.

Flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Rob and Bev Koch in honor of their 30th wedding anniversary and by Janet Wallace in loving memory of husband, David.

All-church Brunch Today at 11:00 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 Zieman invite you to brunch today 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 people who exemplify a servant attitude on a daily basis.

Summer Construction Update. The summer renovation of the Fellowship Hall is 90% complete and finished enough so we can host our brunch this morning. Come after our worship service to check it out and celebrate Kristi and Rock for their 10 years of wonderful service at PCOC!

Next Sunday We Return to our Fall Schedule. We'll see you either at 9:00 or 11:10 for worship and at 10:00 for Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship.

Next Sunday, Sept. 8 - Mission Mixer - in Fellowship Hall

Join us next Sunday, 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 & learn firsthand the impact of your mission dollars. Enjoy coffee, treats, and insightful discussions about the missions that our committees champion. We'll gather while the kids are in Sunday School for a fun mix of fellowship & mission updates. Come to enjoy coffee and to explore how together we're making a difference locally & beyond!

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." To date, we have donated over \$5,000!

From the Deacons

Attention Parents of Young Adults

If you have a child who is between the ages of 18-23, (whether they went to college, a trade school, or got a job) please call the church office and provide their current address. Your Deacons reach out to them and provide a \$25 Target gift card for Halloween and again for Valentines Day as a reminder that PCOC is thinking of them and keeping them in our thoughts and prayers. We want to remind them that they always have a home at PCOC. We would appreciate this information by September 20, so we have time to purchase these gift cards and get them mailed to your child in a timely manner.

OUR FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS!

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.

Presbyterian Women's Circle on Thursday, September 5

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, if you're interested.

Children and Youth Sunday School Begins Next Sunday, 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!

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

Thursdays 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.

Youth Choir for Singers in Grades 8-12

Are you a youth who loves to sing, or who would like to try singing? Meet in the Sanctuary on Sundays, September 15 and 22, from 12:15 – 1:00. We'll have fun working on music to sing at the early service on October 6. Question? Contact Kristi Treu.

Vesper Concerts Kick Off Season 36

The Borowsky Trio will kick off Season 36 on SATURDAY evening, September 14, at 7:00 p.m.!

Hailed by the international press as "American Virtuosi," siblings

Frances, Emmanuel, and Elizabeth Borowsky have won their way into the hearts and minds of audiences throughout North America, Central America, Europe, Asia, and The Middle East. With performances rooted in their cohesive and loving familial bond, the trio has delighted listeners of all ages with their commanding interpretations of standard repertoire and dazzling original compositions.

People of all ages will enjoy this world-class performance in the beautiful environment of our sanctuary. As always, the concert is FREE and open to the public. Invite a friend or colleague to enjoy an exquisite evening of music with you.