GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE Liebster Jesu, wir sind heir J.S. Bach (Dearest Jesus, we are here)

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

SILENT MEDITATION

I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do. I used to pray for answers, but now I'm praying for strength. I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things.

Mother Teresa

CALL TO WORSHIP adapted from Psalm 124:8

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

In speaking, in silence, in movement, in stillness, God is with us.

God saves us, God helps us, God sets us on the path of peace.

Let us commit ourselves afresh to serving and worshipping God, our Helper!

PRAISE AND ADORATION

*HYMN #687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

(*Please stand, if you are able)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, who are we humans, that you pay any attention to us? And yet, you have entrusted us to care for all of creation. We confess the times we have thought too highly of ourselves, and the ways we have twisted our charge to care for creation into permission to dominate and subdue it. We confess the same human tendencies to dominate and subdue other people. It is easy for us to ignore or take for granted our own privileges and blind spots. Remind us of who we are, and whose we are. Remind us of our interdependence with creation, and our dependence on you, our Creator. Set our hearts and minds on your will, made known to us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

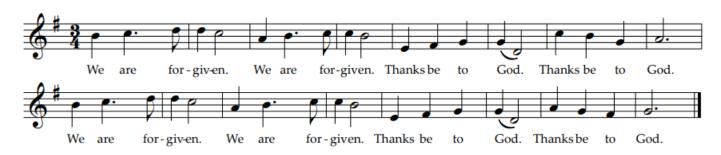


ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#447)

We Are Forgiven

WE ARE FORGIVEN



WELCOME

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Chelsea Salifou and Amanda DeVries, Heartland Hope Mission

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Dumitru Roibu, Executive Director of the YMCA of Moldova

Dima is one of a dozen 2024 PCUSA International Peacemakers selected from across the globe. In 2024, Peacemakers are itinerating across the USA from September 13 – October 7.

FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

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

Sonata of Exaltation (9:00) The Prayer of Saint Francis (11:10) arr. Don Wyrtzen René Clausen

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 9: 38-50

page 821 of the pew Bible

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Confession of Belhar, South Africa (1986)

We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe ... that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways;

in that we love one another;

that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;

that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another.



PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (9:00) arr. Joseph Martin Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (11:10) Donald Busarow

*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

Accept all that is offered in this place this day, O God. Accept our material commitments to build a more peaceable family on this earth and in our own communities. Accept our personal commitments to become a people who break cycles of hatred and retaliation, in both large-scale and everyday ways. Use these gifts, and use us imperfect people, for the rebuilding of a world of hope and healing in your name. Amen.

*HYMN #372 O for a World AZMON

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE Fanfare and Processional Jeffery Blersch

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Music 9:00 Kathy Leach, piano; Mary Lynn Bennett, flute; Mark Kanitz, organ

11:10 Alleluia Singers, Don Reimer, guest director; Mark Kanitz, organ

Childcare Ministry Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster

Ushers 9:00 Darold Bauer, Captain; Mimi Bauer, Doug Rathman, John Sparks, Patti Sparks

11:10 Neal Hubbard, Captain; Richard Meyer, Trudy Meyer, Barbara Thompson

Greeters 9:00 North Door: Doug Larson Welcome Center Door: Bob and Judy Thomas

11:10 North Door: Tim and Kris Goodman Welcome Center Door: Linda Dobry

Information Center 9:00 Karen Saunders 11:10 Kathy Nickel

Coffee Host Amy Boesen

STAFF

Pastor, Head of Staff Rev. Marshall Zieman, D. Min. marshall@pcoc.us **Associate Pastor** josh@pcoc.us Joshua Garry, M.Div. 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 Christian Fritz **Communications Coordinator** communications@pcoc.us **Julie Hansen** Office Administrator churchofthecross@pcoc.us Mark Kanitz Organist mark@pcoc.us

Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min. Pastor Emeritus

Presbyterian Church of the Cross

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The Week at a Glance

Sunday, September 29

9-2

Deacon Blood Drive 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee Fellowship and Youth and SS Classes

10:00 Theologians, Composers, Spirituality and Icons of Sacred Music Class

11:10 Worship

12:00 PeaceMaker Luncheon with Dumitru Roibu 2:30 JHF to Skinny Bones Pumpkin Patch

6:00 SHF to Bellevue Berry Farm

Monday, September 30

9 & 11 Music and Movement

10:00 Tai Chi

Tuesday, October 1

7:00 Men's Bible Study 9:30 Staff Meeting 49ers at Wheatfield's 11.30

1:00 Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

1:30 Active Minds

4:00 Congregational Life Committee

Wednesday, October 2

5.15 Children's Choir 5:50 **Chamber Singers** 6:00 Cornerstone Dinner

6:30 Bible Study and Adult Education

6:30 Confirmation Class 6:50 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, October 3

9 & 11 Music and Movement

10:00 Tai Chi

6:00 Let Justice Roll Down - Agape

6:00 Carillon Choir

Sunday, October 6

9:00 Worship with Communion Coffee Fellowship and Youth and SS Classes 10:00

10:00 Theologians, Composers, Spirituality and

Icons of Sacred Music Class

11:10 Worship with Communion 12:00 JHF Fellowship at the Zoo

4:30 SHF at Open Door Mission Joys and Concerns.

Flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Don and Karen Metzger in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary. Don Igel has been in Methodist Hospital this week, and Darrell Stuedemann was in Bergan Mercy Hospital.

Today is the Deacons Blood Drive in the Gathering Space.

The Red Cross is here today from 9:00 – 2:00. Help us reach



American

our goal of 25 donors! Drop-ins are welcome.

Heartland Hope Mission is here today

Today we welcome back our friends Pastor Chelsea Salifou and Amanda DeVries from Heartland Hope Mission. HHM is a faith-based organization committed to serving the working poor with love and compassion. In addition to providing food, clothing & hygiene items, HHM also provides services that promote self-sufficiency to help break the cycle of poverty and empower individuals and families to improve their lives.

International Peacemaker Visit Today

This Sunday, we are pleased to host Dumitru Roibu, Executive President of YMCA Moldova. Dima will share at each worship service and will spend the Sunday School hour with our Jr. and Sr. High Youth. Following the 11:10 service,



the Mission Committee is hosting a box lunch from Jason's Deli in Fellowship Hall and Dumitru Roibu will be our guest speaker. His history of the YMCA community service includes roles such as World YMCA Youth Empowerment assistant and YMCA Change Agent (a global leadership program), and participation in YES (Youth Engagement in Sports) and TTT (Traning The Trainers) seminars. Since the beginning of Russia's

full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Dumitru Roibu has been involved in supporting Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war. To date, helping more than 14,000 refugees, YMCA Moldova has created more than 320 Digital Educational Centers.

Junior and Senior High Sunday School Room Change just for Today. The Junior & Senior High Sunday School Classes will combine today and meet in Room 15 at 10:00 a.m to hear from Dima Roibu.

Sunday Adult Education

Theologians, Composers, Spirituality and Icons of Sacred Music, led by Cindy Sloan, continues at 10:00 today. What were Calvin's views on music in worship and in the lives of Christians? What is meant by the statement that music is the most spiritual of the arts? What makes music spiritual? We delve into these questions and more. The class will meet on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. from September 15 – October 27, in the Courtyard Classroom in the Welcome Center.

The Tuesday Bible Studies have resumed

Join us at either 7am (men) or 1pm (everyone). We have begun our study of the book of Romans. We meet in the Welcome Center classroom – bring your Bible and join us!

49ER's meet this Tuesday, October 1

Our program for Tuesday, October 1 will be John Dineen, General Manager of Sol's Jewelry & Loan. JOHN IS THE FIRST SPEAKER THAT 49ERS HAS EVER HAD AS A REPEAT. John will give each and every one of us an education and new outlook as to what Sol's Jewelry and Loan is all about. I promise you that you will be surprised as to the information he will bring to our meeting as to the business he manages. Sol's is MUCH MORE than a place where people take jewelry or other items to obtain money when they are in need. Quite an interesting program is promised. The lunch location is Wheatfields, One Pacific Place, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are 49, younger or older, come join us! We will order from a special menu. For reservations or questions, please contact Mary Ott, or Judy Sundberg. We also have a sign-up sheet at the Information Center.

Active Minds We are playing Mahjongg and Canasta in October. Every Tuesday, lower level Great Room, from 1:30-4:00. If you want to join us for Mahjongg please let Earlene know - so we will have adequate game sets and cards.

Thursday Evening Adult Class – begins this Thursday, October 3

Let Justice Roll Down is led by Kathy Moore, Patty Ritchie, and Earlene Uhrig. The class meets <u>Thursday</u> evenings from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on October 3, 10, 17, 24 in the Welcome Center classroom.

Presbyterian Women October 3

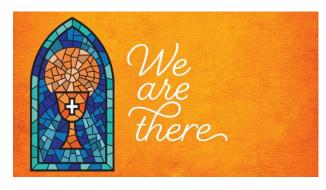
Come join our Presbyterian Women's Circle on Thursday, October 3 at 9:30 am in the Courtyard Room. We will continue studying from "Growing Older and Wiser". This month our reading is Colossians 2: 1-10, "Finding Wisdom". Please contact Cindy Nisley if you're interested.

Serve with Heartland Hope Mission on Saturday, October 5

Our local pantry mission partner for over 15 years, is offering our congregation an opportunity to serve others in need in our community on the first Saturday of every month at the West Omaha location (15555 Industrial Road) <u>9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.</u> Our next opportunity will be Saturday, October 5th. Some of the duties include pre-packing food items, stocking groceries or hygiene items, assisting the clients as they select their groceries, and escorting the client to their cars with their food. You could also help in the clothing area.

World Communion Sunday is Next Sunday

World Communion Sunday this year is October 6. In preparation, during the month of September, a gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering for peacemaking efforts that align with their passion. Midcouncils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and



reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. You may donate online at PCOC, or via the blue pew envelopes.



Heartland Hope's "The Stars Among Us" Gala October 10

Heartland Hope Mission will be holding their annual fundraiser gala dinner "The Stars Among Us" on Thursday, October 10 beginning at 6pm at the Downtown Omaha Hilton. PCOC has a table for 10 reserved for a fabulous barbeque dinner and short program. If interested in either of these HHM opportunities, please contact John Bennett. Thank you for your continuing support!

Friday Night Gourmet is October 11

The next Friday Night Gourmet Dinner will be on October 11 in the party room of Charlie's On the Lake, 4150 S. 144 Street, Omaha. Social hour is at 6:30 pm with a buffet dinner beginning at 7:00 pm. The cost is \$45 per person (this includes tax and gratuity) which is required at time of sign-up. Checks should be made out to PCOC, or you can pay with cash. All are welcome to join us for an enjoyable evening. Please sign up at the Information Desk. The deadline is October 7. Our hosts are Susan Price and Nancy Koehler. Feel free to call with any questions.

Presbyterian Men on October 12

Saturday, October 12 at 9:00 am, PCOC men are invited to attend a continental breakfast and program in the Welcome Center featuring Todd Petrick, Forensic Investigator. Todd will speak about the forensics work he has done with the Omaha Police Department. He will also share the work he does training agencies throughout the country in the use of equipment like GPS, Laser Scanners, and Drones to map crash and crime scenes, then present that data in 3D. You won't want to miss this special program! Please signup to attend at the Information Desk by Sunday, October 6. Invite someone to attend with you. Contact Jon Boomgaarden with questions.

New Member Discussion on Sunday, October 13. If you are interested in joining the church, please attend our next New Member Discussion, at noon following worship on Sunday, October 13 in the Welcome Center. The discussion will last about an hour and a light lunch will be served. Sign up online or call the church office.



2nd Grade Bibles on October 13

The second graders will receive their new Bibles at both services on Sunday, October 13. Parents, please let Heather know which service you will attend.



Vesper Concerts Annual Outdoor Concert Sunday, October 13 at 4:30 p.m.—a Mariachi Festival!

Bring your lawn chairs and your appetite and join us on the East Lawn for our annual outdoor concert. This year's musical guests will be Alexis Arai y Sus Caballeros, who will entertain us with an afternoon of Mariachi music. Javi's Tacos will bring their food truck and serve tacos, quesadillas, churros and ice cream. The first fifteen children under the age of 12 will receive a free churro!

Dust Off Your Instruments and Join the All-Church Orchestra

Open to all instrumentalists in 7th grade through adult. If you play a brass, woodwind, string, or percussion instrument, we'd love to have you join us. We will rehearse on Wednesday, October 23, from 5:15 – 6:00 p.m., plus an optional rehearsal on October 16 (same time). Then, we'll play at the 11:10 worship service on October 27. Please sign up on the church website as soon as possible. Contact Kristi Treu or Patty Ritchie if you have questions.

SHF Invites Adults 55+ to Bingo and Soup

The SHF youth would like to invite folks who are 55+ for some fun and fellowship on Sunday, October 20, from 5-7 p.m. We will start out by sampling an assortment of soups and desserts, then we'll play some Bingo. This is a great opportunity for both generations to get to know each other better. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Heather or sign up on the sheet at the Information Desk in the Welcome Center.

And Coming in November...

PCOC Clean Up Day. Save the date for our Autumn Clean Up Day, Saturday, November 9, from 9:00 to noon. Your help is needed to rake leaves and clean up our landscaped areas to spruce up our beautiful grounds.

New Chairs in the Choir Loft. Last spring, the Building and Grounds Committee and Worship & Music Committee members began exploring the possibility of updating the choir loft with new chairs. After working with a local office supply company and gathering input from choir members and the congregation, the decision was made to purchase sixty choir chairs with a generous gift from Gift & Memorial funds. The new chairs should arrive and be in place by late October or early November.

We must find ways to repurpose or donate the old choir chairs. After the new chairs arrive, congregation members are welcome to take as many chairs as they'd like to donate or use in their homes. If you know of another church, school, or other organization that could use the chairs, don't hesitate to get in touch with Kristi or Rock.

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