



Welcome to Worship

November 17, 2024

9:00 and 11:10 in the Sanctuary

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Finale from "East of Eden"

Lee Holdridge, transcr. Mark Kanitz

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

SILENT MEDITATION

There are two things on which all interpretation of scripture depends: the process of discovering what we need to learn, and the process of presenting what we have learnt. Augustine

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing (9:00)
Father, I Adore You (11:10)

Erik Routley
Terrye Coelho

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96

O Sing to the Lord a new song:

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless his name;

Tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations,

His marvelous works among all the peoples.

PRAISE AND ADORATION

*HYMN #39

Great is Thy Faithfulness

TUNE

(*Please stand, if you are able)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and Loving God, we come before You in meekness and humility. We confess that we do not always serve You as we should. We confess that we have often asked You to serve us instead. We ask for physical things, positions of power. Yet You have already given us love, and grace, and hope: Your mercies make a way for us where there is no way. You are faithful to us again and again. You restore and redeem us. Forgive us, O Lord. Help us to be a vehicle for Your grace. Help us to be Your hands and feet. Help us to yearn for Your nearness. Let us to receive and live out Your Word. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

KYRIE ELEISON #575

Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

KYRIE ELEISON (Pardini)

Lord, have mer - cy up - on_ us. Christ, have mer-cy up - on_ us; Lord, have mer - cy up - on_ us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#447)**

We Are Forgiven

WE ARE FORGIVEN

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

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

WELCOME**ANNOUNCEMENTS****MOMENT FOR MISSION**

John Bennett for the Giving Tree

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

For the Beauty of the Earth (9:00)

John Rutter

Now We Give Thanks (11:10)

Mark Patterson

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

1 Samuel 1:4-20

page 213 of the pew Bible

SERMON

"Hannah's Hope"

Nicole Reibe, PhD

Assistant Professor of Theology, Creighton University

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from *The Confession of 1967*

We believe that to be reconciled to God is to be sent into the world as his reconciling community. This community, the church universal, is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separate humankind from God and each other. Christ has called the church to this mission and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit. By and through these things, we believe that the church maintains a continuity with the apostles and with Israel by faithful obedience to this call.

*GLORIA PATRI #581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
gin-ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal (9:00)
Somebody's Knockin' (11:10)

Spiritual; arr. Alice Parker
Spiritual; arr. Ken Berg

*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

Gracious and Loving God, You are the font of every blessing. We know that whatever we receive in this life comes to us by way of Your grace. So it is that we desire to give back to You. That we desire to give to others in Your name. We pray that our offerings be used so that Your will be done. Amen.

*HYMN #837

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

TUNE

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Amen (9:00)
Go Now in Peace (11:10)

Peter Lutkin
Don Besig

Go now in peace. Ne - ver be a - fraid. God will go with you each hour of ev-'ry day. Go now in faith,
stead-faststrongand true. Know God will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you be - lieve.
Reach out to oth-ers so all the world can see. God will be there watch-ing from a - bove. Go now in peace, in
faith, and in love. — A - men. — A - men. — A - men. —

***POSTLUDE**

Fanfare in A-flat Major

Charles Ore

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

- Music** 9:00 Alleluia Singers; Mark Kanitz, organ
11:10 Children’s Choir; Jayne Frederickson, director; Mark Kanitz, organ
- Childcare Ministry** Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster
- Ushers** 9:00 Tim Graumann, Captain; Brenda Graumann, Kathy Moore, Jeff Boyum, Gary Marron
11:10 Josh Murray, Captain, Joe Weaver, Julie Buehler, Richard and Trudy Meyer
- Greeters** 9:00 North Door: 9:00 Welcome Center: Barb and Pat McNeal
11:10 North Door: Kristin Jacobi 11:10 Welcome Center: John and Pam Swenson
- Information Center** 9:00 Karen Saunders 11:10 Sue Jenkins
- Coffee Host** Brenda Graumann

STAFF

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Rev. Marshall Ziemann, D. Min. | Pastor, Head of Staff | marshall@pcoc.us |
| Rev. 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 |
| 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

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

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



Announcements

For the week of November 17, 2024

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, November 17 - Pantry Sunday

- 9:00 Worship
- 10:00 Coffee, Kids & Youth SS Classes
- 10:00 Embracing Community Connections
Speaker Series
- 10 - 3 SHF/JHF Advent Workshop
- 11:10 Worship
- 12:00 Advent Workshop and Lunch

Monday, November 18

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 6:30 Deacons

Tuesday, November 19

- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 1:30 Active Minds
- 5-7:30 Vesper Board
- 5:30 Finance

Wednesday, November 20

- 5:15 PCOC Book Group
- 5:30 Chamber Singers
- 6:30 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, November 21

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 6:00 Carillion Choir

Sunday, November 24

- 9:00 Worship
- 10:00 Coffee, Kids & Youth SS Classes
- 11:10 Worship
- 2-4 SHF - It's Yours Pottery
- 4:30-6:30 JHF - Sky Zone
- 5:30 Presbyterian Men Shrimp Boil

Joys and Concerns.

Long-time member Carol Dworak passed away last spring. A Memorial Service will be held for Carol on Monday, November 25, at 1:00 in our sanctuary.

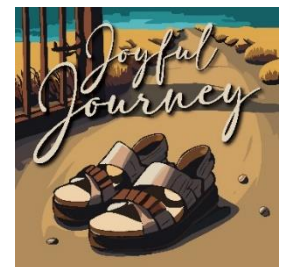
The flowers on the chancel this morning are given by the Mack Family in celebration of Betty Mack's 101st birthday, with love and appreciation for all you have done for us through the years. Sue, Craig and Dennis and our families. Happy Birthday Mom/Grammie! Flowers are also given by Linda Grohs in memory of Jessica Dorn.

Prayers for comfort and peace for Kristin Jacobi and her family because of the death of her mother, Mary McCrander.

Our guest preacher this morning is Rev. Dr. Nicole Reibe, Assistant Professor of Theology at Creighton University. Dr. Reibe's area of expertise is in Medieval Theology (think Augustine and Aquinas) and her research concerns explore the intersectionality of disability. Dr. Reibe holds a MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary and a PhD from Boston College. During her graduate studies, one of Dr. Reibe's great joys was being able to study abroad in a few of the realms of our Reformed heritage: Switzerland and France. Please extend a warm welcome to her as she preaches at our church for the first time! We are blessed to have her with us and blessed to be able to hear from various guest preachers throughout the liturgical year!

Joyful Journey of Stewardship

Church of the Cross is grateful for the years of tradition our congregation has for its fall stewardship campaign and for its continued success with member responses. Thank you to everyone who has prayerfully considered your support and investment in the future of our church.



Thank you to our Volunteers at Fall Clean-up

Last Saturday, a robust and hearty group of volunteers cleared debris, raked leaves, moved flowerpots, retrieved the snow shovels, stored hoses, pruned plants, cut out dead wood from the tree line, cleaned up the

detention pond, hauled garbage, and had a great morning together filling a large dumpster. There were smiles and laughter, on a drizzling and foggy morning, and our volunteers enjoyed an abundance of treats as they worked. Thanks again to all our volunteers, you're the best!

Embracing Community Connections Speaker Series

Today, at 10:00 a.m. in the Courtyard Classroom, our Agape for All team concludes our series. Today's speaker is Itzel Lopez, CEO of the Latino Economic Development Council. Born and raised in Hidalgo, Mexico, Itzel's transformative path began when her family moved to Omaha when she was 12. Through a connection to a Latina community leader, Itzel was able to secure academic scholarships at Bellevue University where she earned degrees in Business Administration, Communication Arts and Marketing. For several years, Itzel worked as an Executive at the AIM Institute, focusing on underrepresented groups in the tech sector and addressing the talent gap in STEM fields. She has volunteered in several ways in the community including as festival director for Omaha's Cinco de Mayo celebration. She is one of the founders of the Latino Economic Development Council and a successful business owner. Her ultimate goal is to reduce disparities and promote social mobility for historical neglect of underserved groups. Everyone is invited to join us at 10:00 a.m.

Today is the Advent Workshop at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome to join us for lunch! For those that registered, crafts will begin after lunch.

Junior High Diaper Drive

The Junior High Fellowship youth are collecting diapers to benefit Heartland Hope Mission. Look for the donation bin in the Lobby. Thanks for your support!



The Tuesday Bible Studies will not meet on November 19. Both the men's group at 7 a.m. and the afternoon group at 1 p.m. are cancelled.

Active Minds in November

For the month of November, Active Minds will be playing Canasta. Join us any Tuesday, from 1:30-4:00pm in the Lower-Level Great Room. Feel free to come down after Tuesday Bible Study. We have very patient teachers, so come & learn something new! Questions? Contact Earlene Uhrig



Usher Opportunities

We have openings on some of our usher teams. If you are looking for a way to serve, please consider being an usher. We have one opening on a once a month 9 am team, and 3 openings on once a month 11:10 am teams. We provide on the job training! New members are welcome. Contact Mary Ott with questions.

Donate to Hurricane Relief Efforts

Our Mission Committee is matching donations of up to \$3,000 total from the congregation to send to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to aid in the massive relief efforts which will be needed. Write your check to PCOC with PDA in the memo line. The congregation has generously given **\$12,765!**



PCOC Book Group on November 20

The PCOC Book Group will meet November 20 in Room 13 from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *Kitchens of the Great Midwest* by J. Ryan Stradal. All readers are welcome! Questions? Contact Charlotte Hubbard.

Classic Shrimp Boil Dinner & Fundraiser November 24



Presbyterian Men are once again hosting an old-fashioned shrimp boil on Sunday, November 24th in Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm. The entertainment will be the Heartland Acoustic Omaha, led by our own Jim Butler. Come & enjoy scrumptious 'JUMBO' fresh shrimp (or chicken cordon bleu) served with all the fixins! The suggested donation is only \$20 per person. ALL proceeds will go to purchase baby formula for Heartland Hope Mission. Sign up & pay in advance (checks to Presbyterian Men) at the Information Desk by Sunday, November 17th. Questions? Contact Jim Miller or Frank McMullen.

Nominate an Officer Today!

In the Presbyterian Church, we have the privilege and responsibility of nominating and electing our own congregational leaders. Now is the time to nominate a new class of Elders and Deacons. Your input is both appreciated and necessary! Forms are available online, in the Church Office, and at the Information Desk. The deadline is December 15. Questions? Contact a member of the church nominating committee: Dennis Boesen, Staci Voss, Karen Saunders, Rob Bailey, Lloyd Meyer, and Belinda Greiner.

Happy
Thanksgiving



Thanksgiving Offering. Through the end of the month, we will collect funds to support our annual PCOC Thanksgiving offering that benefits families in need through our mission partner Completely Kids. We provide Thanksgiving baskets that will be distributed to families the week of Thanksgiving. Please use the special giving envelope for this donation, or write Thanksgiving Donation on the memo line of your check. All funds will go towards next year's baskets.

49ERS --- Tuesday December 3, 2024

Our program for Tuesday, December 3, 2024, will be Max Meier. The title of Max' presentation is: "My Travel Adventures". Max managed the old Dick Walters Travelogue for eight years. He has traveled to thirty-six countries, been to Europe at least twenty times, and has been on at least thirty cruises. The lunch location is Wheatfields, One Pacific Place, at 11:30 a.m. Every one 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.

If It's November, It Means that Advent and Christmas Are Coming...Hanging of the Greens next Saturday, November 30 at 10:00 a.m.



Hanging
of the
Greens

We'll assemble and decorate Christmas trees, hang wreaths and garlands, and enjoy treats and music. This is a fun event for the entire family. Please sign up on the church website by November 23 so we know you're coming.

Light the Advent Candles.

Starting December 1, we need families to light the Advent candles during worship. You will read the Call to Worship as you light the Advent candle(s). We need readers for every worship service! Please sign up at the Information Desk.



It's Time to Order Christmas Poinsettias!

This year, orders are due by Wednesday, November 20, and the plants will arrive in time for the 3rd Sunday of Advent on December 15. Order forms can be found at the Information Desk or online. The cost for each poinsettia plant is \$17. Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Church of the Cross.



A Special Christmas Vesper Concert with The Frisson Ensemble

Experience the beautiful spirit of the Christmas season with The Frisson Ensemble, a group of eleven string and wind instruments on Thursday evening, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. The program includes music from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, "Winter" from Vivaldi's Four Seasons, Bach's Brandenburg No. 4, Carol of the Bells, a Christmas Jazz Suite, and traditional Christmas Carols. There will be a reception following the concert in the Welcome Center. Enjoy Christmas treats and hot chocolate, and a visit from a very special guest from the North Pole! Visit www.vesperconcerts.org for more information about this special event.



GALS cookie and candy exchange Saturday, December 7

Please join GALS for a cookie and candy exchange fellowship from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in the Welcome Center at church. In addition to having fun, you'll leave the event with a variety of cookies and candies to grace your Christmas treat platters. To participate:

- Sign up online and indicate the name of the item you intend to bring (comment line)
- Bring 4 dozen of one kind of homemade Christmas cookies or candy
- The day of the event bring an empty container for the exchange and a printed copy of your recipe to place by your treats (for those who like to collect recipes) Call Staci Voss or Anne Wattles if you have any questions!

Advent Dinner Registration Is Now Available!

Please join us for another wonderful Advent Dinner on Sunday, December 8 at 5:30 pm. Advent Dinner is one of our best-loved traditions at Presbyterian Church of the Cross. It is a festive and meaningful way to start the Christmas season and includes a meal cooked by our Deacons, lots of fun, fellowship, and the long-awaited Christmas pageant by our PCOC children. This year's menu is Roast Beef, roasted potatoes, vegetables, and salad (there will also be a Vegetarian entrée). This year we will also have chicken tenders for the kids! And of course, all the great desserts brought by the congregation - bring your favorite Christmas dessert to share that will serve approximately 8 people. Please drop off desserts early that afternoon. There is no charge to attend this amazing event, but a free-will donation is always welcomed to help the Deacons defer the total costs. Make sure to sign up online or stop by the Information Desk in the Welcome Center.

Friday Night Gourmets on December 13

Friday Night Gourmets will meet 6:30 PM at Tim and Kris Goodman's home, 17206 Fairway Drive. Please sign up at the Information Desk for what you would like to bring. We will supply H2O, Wassal and a Signature Cocktail. Otherwise, BYOB. For questions call Kris or AJ and Judy Sundberg. It's sure to be a festive evening. Merry Christmas to All!

Presbyterian Men Bell Ringing on December 14. Help ring bells for the Salvation Army's Christmas campaign on Saturday, December 14 at Hy-Vee on 132nd and Dodge. Each volunteer rings during a 1-hour shift from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will have two ringers at each door (east and west) per shift. This is an easy, enjoyable opportunity to assist the Salvation Army's efforts in helping those in need this Christmas. Please sign up at the Information Desk by Sunday, December 8. Thanks to Jim Chapin for coordinating this activity.

Save the Date!

Young Adult Christmas Party

All our young adults are invited to the home of Chris and Staci Voss to catch up and reunite on Sunday, December 22 at 5 p.m. Look for invitations in the mail soon!