



Welcome to Worship

Presbyterian Church of the Cross
Sunday, December 22, 2024
9:00 and 11:10 a.m.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Fantasia on 'Greensleeves'"
Chamber Orchestra

Ralph Vaughan Williams

SILENT MEDITATION

Jesus of Nazareth was a real man, living and dying at a turbulent moment in real space-time history. His message, and the message about him that the early Christians called good news, was not about how to escape that world. It was about how the one true God was changing it, radically and forever.



- N.T. Wright, Simply Good News

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Scott and Amanda Stalnaker, Brynn, Korbin, and Ada (9:00)
Pam Lindsey, Ethan Lindsey, and Julie Buehler (11:10)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

"Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"

JOYOUS LIGHT

You who made the heav-en's splen-dor, Ev-'ry danc-ing star of night, Make us
shine with gen-tle jus-tice, Let us each re-lect your light. Might-y God of all cre-
a-tion, Gen-tle Christ who lights our way, Lov-ing Spir-it of sal-va-tion, Lead us
on to end-less day.

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

from Isaiah 40

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Lift every valley, lift every voice.

Prepare the way of the Lord!

And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

PRAISE AND ADORATION

*HYMN #87

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

GENEVAN;

arr. Tom Trenney

CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great God, as we behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we focus on things of little significance. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

KYRIE ELEISON (#578)

“O Lord, Have Mercy”

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ



O - Lord, have mer - cy; O Lord, have mer - cy; O Lord, have mer-cy, have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, have mer - cy; O Christ, have mer - cy; O Christ, have mer-cy, have mer - cy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA (#583)

“Glory to God”

GLORIA (Taizé)



Glo-ri-a, glo - ri-a, in excel - sis De - o! Glo - ri-a, glo - ri-a, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD AND PRAYER

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-56

page 831 of the pew Bible

Janet Wallace, Liturgist

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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	“Hope for Tomorrow” Alleluia Singers; Sarah Frederickson, soloist	Dave Gardner
SCRIPTURE	Luke 2:1-14 Janet Wallace, Liturgist	page 832 of the pew Bible
ANTHEM	“Still, Still, Still” Resound; Joe Mendick soloist	arr. Matthew Culloton
	“Light dawns on a weary world” Chamber Singers	Mack Wilberg
	“Angels from the Realms of Glory” All Choirs	arr. Dan Forrest
*CHRISTMAS HYMN	“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”	MENDELSSOHN Arr. Sir David Willcocks

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

RECEPTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY	“Love Came Down at Christmas” Chamber Singers	David C. Dickau
	“Love’s Pure Light” All Choirs	Elaine Hagenberg
*CHRISTMAS HYMN	“O Come, All Ye Faithful”	arr. Sir David Willcocks

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!
*Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:
Refrain

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
Refrain

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“A King Is Born”
Resound; Tyler Kalinowski, soloist

Timothy Sarsany

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Childcare Ministry	Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster		
Ushers	9:00	Darold Bauer, Captain; Mimi Bauer, Mike Shannon, Sherryl Shannon, Doug Rathman	
	11:10	Dennis Boesen, Captain; Amy Boesen, Alta Empkey, Zach Metzger, Tim Goodman	
Greeters	9:00	North Door: Staci Voss	Welcome Center: Garrett Voss
	11:10	North Door: Scott and Kimberly McCormick	Welcome Center: Kristine Gasko
Information Center	9:00	Karen Saunders	11:10 Kris Goodman
Coffee Host	Linda Miller		

STAFF

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Presbyterian Church of the Cross

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-4:30



Announcements

For the week of December 22, 2024

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 22

9:00 Worship
10:00 Coffee Fellowship
11:10 Worship
5:00 Young Adult Christmas Party

Tuesday, December 24

Office Closed at 12 noon

5:00 Christmas Eve Worship
7:00 Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

Office Closed

Sunday, December 29

11:10 Worship

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

Thank you for coming this morning on behalf of Alleluia Singers, Chamber Singers, Resound, and our instrumentalists.

We are delighted to share music that comes from our hearts, and we hope it has made the Advent season meaningful for you.

We are fortunate to have composer Dave Gardner as part of the music program at PCOC, and we are delighted to premiere his original work, "Hope for Tomorrow." Here is a bit about the piece in Dave's own words:

"Hope for Tomorrow" begins with a story about past, present, and future perspectives and the implications of nativity. This narrative surrounds a poem that further explores the hope found in renewal (through the nativity) that it represents...that we and the world we live in are God's creations that go through cycles of birth, life, death, and renewal.

Young Adult Christmas Party Is Tonight! All our young adults are invited to the home of Chris and Staci Voss to catch up and reunite today at 5 p.m.

Joys and Concerns

The flower bouquet in the chancel this morning is given by Arnie Nelson in honor of Karleen Nelson's 83rd birthday today, December 22nd. Flowers are also given by Jim and Betsy Conway in honor of their 53rd wedding anniversary on December 18th.

Sandy Johnson's sister, Sue Bryan, passed away recently. Her funeral was Friday in Lexington, NE.

Birthday Card Shower – The family of Frank Watt invites the congregation to send birthday cards to Frank in honor of his 88th birthday on January 1! Cards can be mailed to Frank Watt, Heritage Pointe attn: MS 20, 16811 Burdette Street, Omaha, NE 68116.

The Perfect Gift. Christmas Joy Special Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the Presbyterian Church (USA). God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This national offering smooths the path for our current and retired church workers and their families in their time of critical need and prepares the way for our future leaders at



Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color. Please make your check out to PCOC and include "Joy Offering" in the memo line, enclosing your check in a blue pew envelope.



The Tuesday Bible Studies. Both the 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. groups are on holiday break. We'll resume on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

New Member Discussion on January 12. Do you know someone who is looking for a church home? Our next New Member Discussion will be on Sunday, January 12, 2025 after the 11:10 worship service. The discussion will last about an hour, and a light lunch will be provided. Sign up online or call the church office to register!



PRESBYTERIAN
Church of the Cross

Mission Giving Tree in Lobby. Our beautiful wooden giving tree is set up in the Lobby outside the Church Office. Donations this year will go to the following PCOC mission partners: Omaha Street School, Voices for Children, and International Missions. Envelopes are available by the tree. Just check your donation choice, enclose your check, and leave the envelope in the basket. All checks should be made out to Presbyterian Church of the Cross.

Calling all knitters!

Our supply of Prayer Shawls that are taken to our hospitalized and shut-in members is running low. If you are a knitter, please consider making one for the Pastors and Deacons to distribute to our members. They are greatly appreciated. You may leave your finished shawl on the counter in Room 15, and I will attach a label stating that it was crafted with love by our Prayer Shawl Ministry. Thank you for using your creative talent for this project. Any questions? Contact Ginger Petersen-Britt

Adult Education in 2025 – Register Online Now

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

- "Theologians, Philosophers, Composers and the Pursuit of Beauty," by led Cindy Sloan, Jan 12–Feb 23.
- "More Than Words, 10 Values for the Modern Family," led by Emily and Josh Murray, Jan 12–March 2.
- "Embracing Community Connections," led by Patty Ritchie and Kathy Moore, April 27 and May 4.

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

"Blessed Are You, The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and in Life," led by Kirk Ryckman, Jan 15 – Mar 19

Cornerstone – Register Online Now

The Spring Semester of Cornerstone begins January 15.

Giving Envelopes for 2025. New year giving envelopes will soon be available in the Welcome Center on a table close to the Information Desk. Please contact Rock in the church office if you would like to use envelopes.

Holiday Schedule of Church Services & Office Closings

Tuesday, December 24	Identical Christmas Eve services at 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Thursday, December 25-26	The church office is closed.
Sunday, December 29	One single worship service at 11:10 a.m.
Tuesday-Wednesday, December 31 & Jan 1	The church office is closed.
Sunday, January 5	One single worship service at 11:10 a.m.