



Welcome to Worship

December 8, 2024

9:00 and 11:10 in the Sanctuary

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Diane Bish

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

SILENT MEDITATION

God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving towards the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation; we are not alone on our journey. The God of love who gave us life sent us his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that he walks with us...

Henri J.M Nouwen, *Gracias! A Latin American Journal*



*Second Sunday
of Advent*

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP (11:10)

The Eyes of All Wait Upon Thee

Jean Berger

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

The Boyum family (9:00)

The Murray family (11:10)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

JOYOUS LIGHT

Marty Haugen

In the stars that grace the dark - ness, In the blaz - ing sun of dawn, In the
light of peace and wis - dom, We can hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
won - der, Love that warms the wea - ry soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, Set us
free and make us whole.

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

A voice cries out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,

and for the Prince of Peace to rule our hearts and world. Let us worship God together!

PRAISE AND ADORATION

***HYMN #88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1-4)

VENI EMMANUEL

(*Please stand, if you are able)

CONFESSION AND PARDON

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION


Merciful God, today we light the candle of peace, but we confess that we have sometimes assumed that conflict would overtake us. Instead of trusting in you, we have turned to despair. We have looked for help in the wrong places and have sought quick fixes from those with money and power. Forgive us, God. Let us listen to the voice crying out in the wilderness and help us prepare for the coming of Christ.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND PETITION

KYRIE ELEISON (#578)

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ



Ó - 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

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#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!

WELCOME

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

***HYMN #82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DOXOLOGY (#609)**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

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

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we offer today, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ's ministry. May these gifts help to free the captives, heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed the hungry, heal the wounded. As Christ's hands and feet, use us too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.

***HYMN #88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 5-7)

VENI EMMANUEL

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Masters in This Hall

Jeffrey Blersch

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Music

9:00 Kathy Leach, piano; Mark Kanitz, organ

11:10 Chamber Singers; Kathy Leach, piano; Mark Kanitz, organ

Childcare Ministry

Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster

Ushers

9:00 Jim Miller, Captain; Linda Miller, Gary and Marsha Marron, John Sparks

11:10 Tim Goodman, Captain; Kris Goodman, Judy Sundberg, Dan and Barb Scanlan

Greeters

9:00 North Door: Barb Haar-Rightmyer

Welcome Center Door: Doug Larson

11:10 North Door: Carol Crawford

Welcome Center Door: Nancy Koehler

Information Center

9:00 Judy Thomas

11:10 Kris Goodman

Coffee Host

Neal Hubbard

STAFF

Rev. Marshall Ziemann, D. Min.

Pastor, Head of Staff

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Pastor Emeritus

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Announcements

For the week of December 8, 2024

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, December 8

- 9:00 Worship
- 10:00 Pageant Rehearsal in Sanctuary
- 10:00 Coffee and Youth SS Classes
- 11:10 Worship
- 11:00 Caring and Sharing at Don and Millie's
- 4:15 Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House
- 5:00 Advent Dinner and Pageant
No Youth Fellowship

Monday, December 9

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 6:30 Christian Education Committee

Tuesday, December 10

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 1:00 Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
- 1:30 Active Minds
- 5:00 Membership Committee
- 5:30 Finance Committee
- 6:30 Mission Committee

Wednesday, December 11

- 5:30 Chamber Singers
- 6:00 Confirmand Christmas Party
- 6:30 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, December 12

- 9 & 11 Music and Movement
- 10:00 Tai Chi
- 12:00 Serve lunch at OSS
- 6:00 Carillion Choir

Friday, December 13

Cross Currents Deadline

- 6:30 Friday Night Gourmet

Saturday, December 14

- 10-4 Presbyterian Men Ring Bells at HyVee
- XXX Betty Mack Memorial Service

Sunday, December 15 Pantry Sunday

- 9:00 Worship
- 10:00 Coffee, Youth and SS Classes
- 11:10 Worship
- 12:15 Session
- 1:00 Resound Rehearsal
- 4:45 SHF Friendsmas
- 4:45 JHF Ugly Christmas Sweater Party

Joys and Concerns.

Flowers on the chancel this morning are given by Judy Arms in loving memory of Henry Arms.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Betty Mack, who passed away last Tuesday at the age of 101. A Memorial Service is set for Saturday, December 14.

A visitation will be held at 11:00 in the Welcome Center, followed by the service at noon, then lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Keep daughter Sue Meusey and family in prayer.

The Memorial Service for Ruth Haycraft has been set for 11:00 on Wednesday, December 18 in our sanctuary.

It's Tonight! The children's Advent Pageant begins at 5:00, followed by the Advent Dinner in Fellowship Hall!

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.



Friday Night Gourmets on December 13. Friday Night Gourmets will meet at 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!

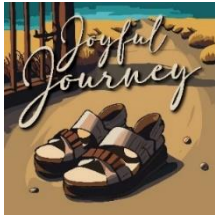


The Tuesday Bible Studies. Both the men's group at 7 a.m. and the afternoon group at 1 p.m. will meet on December 10.

Active Minds Continues through Dec 10. Active Minds is playing Canasta in the lower-level Great Room from 1:30-4:00pm. Feel free to come down after Tuesday Bible Study. We have very patient teachers, so come & learn something new! Contact Earlene Uhrig with questions.



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. By completing your individual or family pledge card during this drive 20% will be automatically directed to the Mission Committee budget. As Session prepares to set the 2025 budget, each remaining pledge received continues to grow our Mission Budget for next year.

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!

Usher Opportunities

We have openings on some of our usher teams. 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.

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.

Young Adult Christmas Party Treats to Share!

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! Save the date and spread the word!

The Perfect Gift. Christmas Joy Special Offering



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and our future leaders of the church. 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 Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us. You may use the blue pew envelopes or simply designate "Christmas Joy offering" on the memo line of your check made out to PCOC.

Doug Patten Invitation to view his Christmas Village

PCOC member Doug Patten has invited the congregation to visit his home to view his large Christmas village, complete with 120 lighted buildings and an estimated total of 960 pieces including a running Christmas H-O train setup that runs throughout the villages. Doug is 80 years old and is one of our at-home members. He watches us faithfully every week on the livestream. Doug lives in southwest Omaha. His address and phone number are in our database. Feel free to call Doug to set up your visit.

