



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, February 23, 2025

9:00 and 11:10 in the Sanctuary

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude

Concerto in C

Paul Frey

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

Silent Meditation "The Holy Spirit, thank God, often enables people to forgive even though they are not sure how they did it."

author Louis B. Smedes, 1921-2002

Call to Worship

from Psalm 37:39-40

Our salvation is from the Lord;

God is our refuge in times of trouble.

The Lord helps us and rescues us;

God saves us because we take refuge in our Lord, whom we worship today.

Praise and Adoration

***Opening Hymn #756**

O God of Every Nation

LLANGLOFFAN

(*Please stand, if you are able)

Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we come to you in prayer today reminded of the promises of your kingdom. You encourage us to give unto others and do good even to those who hate us. But we fail and instead we grow angry and selfish, looking only into our immediate wants and needs, forgetting all those who are in our path. Forgive us. Help us remember "to do to others as you would have them do to you."

Silent Prayers of Confession and Petition

Kyrie Eleison (#434)

Restore in Us, O God

BAYLOR

Restore in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.

Assurance of Pardon

*Gloria Patri (#581)

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

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.

*Welcome

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

Time for Young Disciples

Announcements

(9:00) Service of Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning of Officers

- Leader: There are different gifts.
People: But it is the same spirit who gives them.
Leader: There are different ways of serving God.
People: But it is the same Lord who is served.
Leader: God works through different people in different ways.
People: But it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.
Leader: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,
People: To use for the common good.
Leader: Together we are the Body of Christ,
People: And individually members of him.

Presentation

At our recent Congregational Meeting, we elected a new class of Elders and Deacons to serve our church. Today, these individuals are presented for ordination and installation: Susan Geschwender, Trudy Meyer, and Barbara Haar-Rightmyer

(11:10) Hymn #735

I Need Thee Every Hour

NEED

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

O Love (9:00)
Let Us Love One Another (11:10)

Elaine Hagenberg
David von Kampen

Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Lesson

Luke 6: 27-38

page 838 of the pew Bible

Sermon

"Going from Preachin' to Meddlin'"

Dr. Zieman

Our Response to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

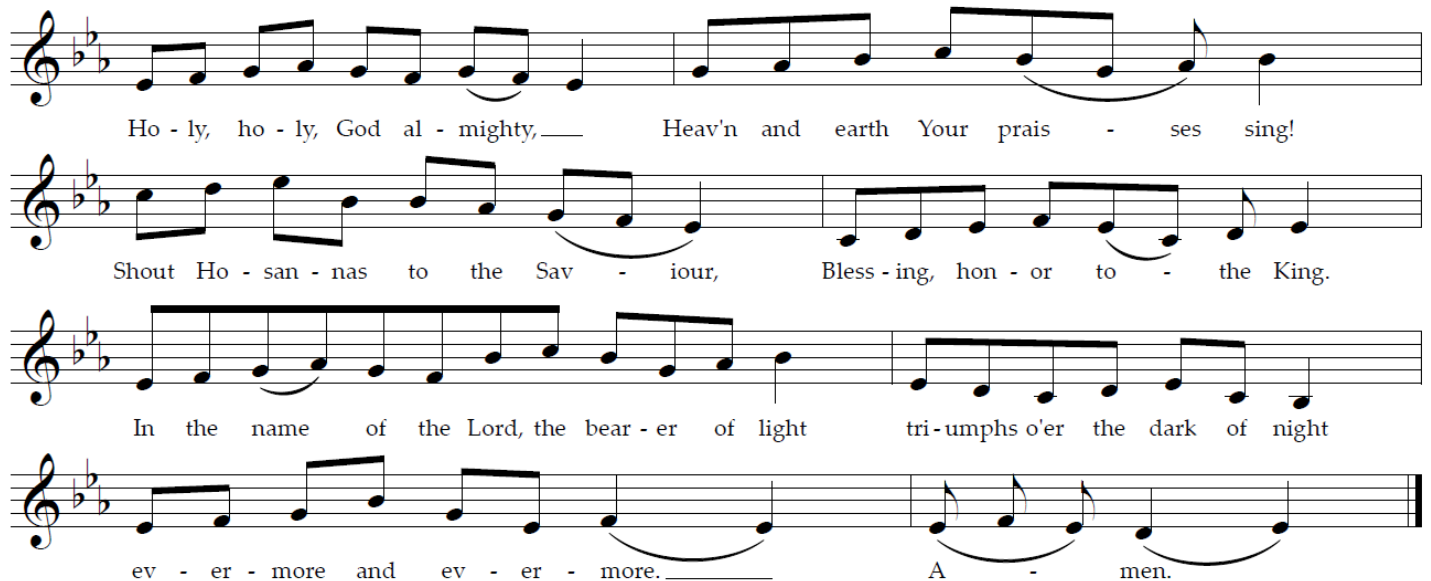
from Philippians 2: 5-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!

*Sanctus

Holy, Holy, God Almighty

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



Ho - ly, ho - ly, God al - mighty, Heav'n and earth Your prais - ses sing!
Shout Ho - san - nas to the Sav - iour, Bless - ing, hon - or to - the King.
In the name of the Lord, the bear - er of light tri - umphs o'er the dark of night
ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (9:00)

Matthew J. Armstrong

Just As I Am (11:10)

Bradbury; arr. Craig Courtney

*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

O God, may these gifts be used as a witness to your love, peace, and justice at work in the world, renewing the face of the earth. Amen.

*Hymn of Dedication #702

Christ Be Beside Me

BUNESSAN

***Charge and Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

“Go Now in Peace” (9:00)

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-fast strong and 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

Aria

Albert Zabel

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

- Music** 9:00 Alleluia Singers; Mark Kanitz, organ
11:10 Kristi Treu, soprano; Mark Kanitz, organ
- 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
- Greeters** 9:00 North Door: Sally Hanley Welcome Center Door: Ken & Cindy Nisley
11:10 North Door: Kathy Gross Welcome Center Door: John & Pam Swenson
- Information Center** 9:00 Mary Ann Pederson 11:10: Sue Jenkins
- Coffee Host** 10:00 Jacquie Kluck

STAFF

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
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Announcements

For the week of February 23, 2025

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, February 23

- 9:00 Worship
- 10:00 Coffee, Kids & Youth SS Classes
- 10:00 Theologians, Philosophers, Composers, and the Pursuit of Beauty Class
- More Than Words Class
- 11:10 Worship
- 4:45 SHF Olympics/NO JHF

Monday, February 24

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

Tuesday, February 25

- 7:00 Men's Bible Study
- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 1:00 Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
- 1:30 Active Minds
- 6:00 Cross Care

Wednesday, February 26

- 5:15 Children Choir
- 5:50 Chamber Singers
- 6:00 Cornerstone Dinner
- 6:30 Adult and Children's Bible Study and Confirmation Class
- 6:50 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, February 27

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

Sunday, March 2

- 8:00 Deacon Blood Drive
- 9:00 Worship
- 10:00 More Than Words Class
- 10:00 Coffee, Kids & Youth SS Classes
- 11:10 Worship
- 4:45 SHF/Games
- 4:30 JHF/Escape Room

Joys and Concerns.

Longtime member Frank Watt passed away on February 19. Funeral arrangements are pending.

The flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Pam Otto in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Otto.

In the month of February, we highlight the Deacon Fund

Did you know that Deacons are not supported by our regular budget? That's why in February, we encourage everyone to make a gift to our Deacons Fund. Your faithful support helps ensure that our Deacons are able to care for each neighborhood, send cards, make visits, prepare and serve funeral luncheons, and organize the Advent Dinner each year. You are welcome to use the envelope that is included with the regular weekly giving envelopes, or write "Deacons" on a blue giving envelope (located in the pew racks). Or, you may pay online - choose Deacons Envelope as the fund.



PCOC Blood Drive is next Sunday, March 2

The Deacons Health and Wellness Committee is sponsoring a Red Cross

blood drive at PCOC on Sunday, March 2. The drive will be from 9:00 - 2:00 in the PCOC lower-level Great Room. Please see Chris Voss or Carla Fritz if you need assistance registering or you may sign up using the Red Cross App or this address - www.redcrossblood.org. All donations come with a \$10 gift card and HGB A1C testing. The Hemoglobin (HGB) A1C test is a diagnostic blood test to help diagnose and track Type 2

diabetes (more commonly called adult-onset diabetes).

49ERS on March 4

Our program for Tuesday, March 4, 2025 is Joy Battling of Scatter Joy Acres. Joy Bartling is a native of Nebraska and has 4 children and 7 grandchildren. She was raised on a dairy farm in Herman, Nebraska. In 2006 Scatter Joy Acres (SJA) was founded by Joy to provide a new home, new life, and new meaning by rescuing abused or neglected animals. In 2022 the ranch was relocated to 15 acres inside the city limits of Omaha. 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 and you can find out more about Joy on the sign up sheet as well.

2025 Lenten Study is March 9 – April 13. Sign up now!

One of our most meaningful churchwide activities is starting soon – The Lenten Study! Small groups will begin a 6-week study on March 9 and end on Palm Sunday, April 13. Rob Fuquay's book, *The Passion Play, Living the Story of Christ's Last Days*, has been chosen as this year's study.

"Perfect for this Lent, this study takes you on a journey to the origins of the Oberammergau Passion Play and helps you understand how the play has been used both as a ritual of praise and, later, as a weapon. The play covers the final period of Jesus' life from his visit to Jerusalem to the journey to the cross. This study helps readers feel a sense of connection to the play while recognizing their own place in the story of Jesus."

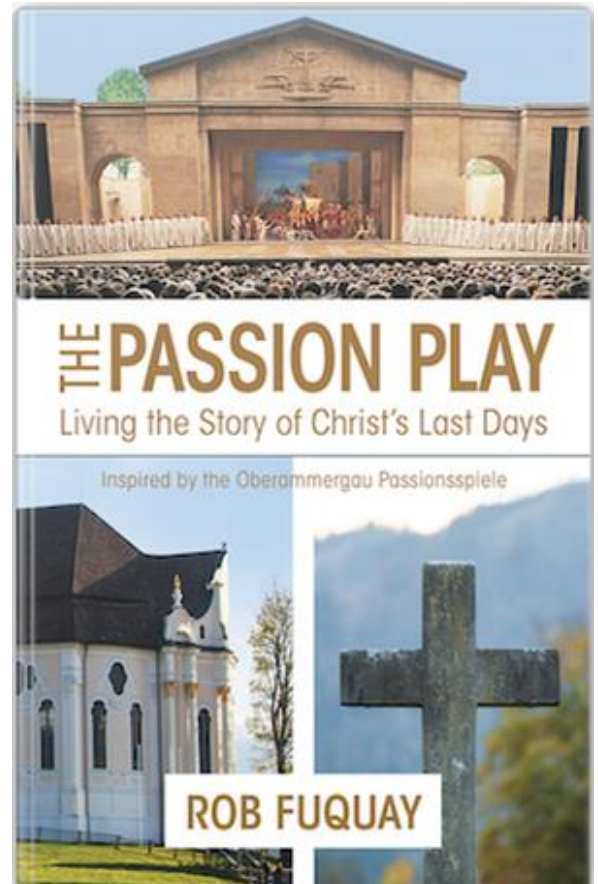
The Lenten Study is a great opportunity to get to know others in our church family while preparing for Easter. We hope you will join us!

Classes will be offered the following days and times:
Sundays at 10 a.m., Sundays at 5 p.m., Mondays at 1:30 p.m.,
and Thursdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom



Register Online or use the QR code.

If you need assistance registering, stop by the Information Desk in the Welcome Center and someone will be happy to help you, or contact Heather in the Church Office.



Friday Night Gourmet on March 14

Our next Friday Night Gourmet Dinner will be held on March 14 at Cascio's. Drinks will begin at 6:30 with dinner to follow at 7:00. All are welcome to join us for an early St. Patrick's celebration. Please sign up at the Information desk. We will order off the menu with separate checks provided. Co-hosts are Irene and Bob Astleford, Jr.

Youth Offering Goals Set for 2025!

In the Gathering Space where the elementary children gather for Sunday School each week, there are goal sheets posted displaying this year's giving effort. To kick off 2025, their first goal is to raise enough money to purchase two sets of 2 Rabbits and a Hutch, which costs \$100 per set. Rabbits reproduce at a very high rate and can be a consistent source of nutrition for a family in need.

During January and the first part of February, our children and youth have already given \$66 towards this effort. WAY TO GO MIGHTY KIDS! Once they have reached their first goal, their next effort is to raise enough money to purchase fishing equipment and supplies. This is another way for a family to improve their livelihood and become more self-sufficient. We hope that you will continue to support our youngest Presbyterians as they make a difference in today's world!

2 Rabbits and a Hutch

\$100 x 2 = \$200

Rabbits reproduce at a very high rate and can be a consistent source of nutrition for a family in need. Consider giving a family everything they need to house and raise a family of rabbits.



Children's Worship Kits

Parents, be sure to pick up worship kits for your children on the way into worship on Sunday mornings. The kits are located on a cart in the Narthex. There are two types of kits: one for ages 3 – 6 and one for ages 7+. These kits contain paper, crayons, pencils, and children's bulletins that help children follow along during the service. After worship, return the bags to the cart so they can be restocked and ready for next Sunday.

Presbyterian Disaster Aid for the Ongoing California Fires - Matching Grant from the Mission Committee

Please support the crucial work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance as they support the presbyteries and communities impacted by the disastrous ongoing fires in California. Tens of thousands of residents have been forced to evacuate and more than 57,000 homes are threatened.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is in communication with the affected presbyteries to offer resources in the aftermath of the fires. So far, we are aware of one Presbyterian church destroyed (Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church) and several more are threatened. We will know more once the fires are contained and evacuation orders have been lifted. Pray for those affected, and for the safety, strength and resilience of the first responders battling these historic blazes, and for the families and communities devastated by unimaginable loss.

You may donate online at churchofthecrossomaha.org by clicking on the Giving button, then selecting Disaster Relief from the drop-down menu, or via our blue pew envelopes, or send checks to PCOC designating PDA in the memo. Presbyterian Church of the Cross members have given more than \$5,100 this year and the Mission Committee is matching another \$5,000. A check will be sent this week to aid with relief efforts in the Southern California areas. Thank you for your generosity!

The Tuesday Bible Studies Have Resumed. Our Tuesday gatherings continue in our study of Romans. Newcomers are always welcome; just bring your favorite Bible and join us in the classroom in the Welcome Center at 7:00 a.m. (men's only) or 1:00 p.m. (everyone).

Active Minds in February

Active Minds will be adding Pinochle to our games in February. Newcomers and friends are always welcome. Tuesdays, 1:30-4:00 in the lower level Great Room. We have very patient teachers available every week! Please join us as your schedule allows. You are welcome to join us after Bible Study. Contact Person, Earlene Uhrig.



Adult Education Classes Continue at 10:00

10 Values for the Modern Family at 10 a.m. led by Emily and Josh Murray. The values we live and raise our families by are grounded, first, in love. Contrary to many of today's so-called family values, our values go beyond one or two loaded social issues to a wholehearted lifestyle of practicing compassion, hospitality, justice, peace, and belonging. This class is geared towards parents that are currently raising children in their homes. Grandparents are welcome to join us, too! This class meets in Room 15.

Theologians, Philosophers, Composers, and the Pursuit of Beauty at 10 a.m. led by Cindy Sloan - Beauty is essential to our understanding of God and can be a path to God. Dostoevsky claimed that "beauty will save the world". There are many philosophers in the past ten years who have put forward the idea that beauty is essential in the restoration of the sacred (Sir Roger Scruton) and its importance to our world, well-being, and culture. Dana Gioia, former California Poet Laureate and Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, has lectured and written extensively on the arts and their importance for the church and spirituality. He believes that "in the presence of beauty" we "feel a deep human hunger being satisfied". Through the music of

Beethoven and Britten we will experience beauty and hopefully sense “the beauty of the Lord.” This class meets in the Courtyard Classroom in the Welcome Center.

Cornerstone – Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

The Spring Semester of Cornerstone’s Adult Education Class is “Blessed Are You, The Beatitudes of Jesus in Scripture and in Life,” led by Kirk Ryckman, Jan 15 – Mar 19. We hope you will join us for dinner and then this Kerygma Program Bible Study. Please let Heather know if you are interested in attending.

Summer Fun for Children and Youth

Registration for summer camps and activities in our community has begun, but we don’t want you to miss out on our activities here at Church of the Cross.

Put these dates on your calendar now:

Senior High Mission Trip – June 1 – 7

Junior High Mission Trip – June 27 – 29

Vacation Bible School – July 15 - 17, 9 a.m. to Noon

Senior High Youth Triennium – July 28 - 31

2025 Bible Reading Adventure. In the January Cross Currents, Rock published a daily guide to begin reading the Bible in a year. It is not too late to begin. Together, we begin in Genesis and Matthew, the Old and New Testaments and from there the adventure begins. We may gather periodically throughout the year for support. Join the adventure of a lifetime. Join us as we continue the readings each week in the New Year.



Chancel Flowers. Time to sign up for chancel flowers for 2025! A signup sheet is available at the Information Center or you can call the church office, 402-333-7466. The cost is \$25.00. This is an excellent way to celebrate a special event or honor someone special.

First Mondays

Our local presbytery has a group that meets once a month to share in Christlike conversations on Palestine and Israel, focusing on scripture and theology and the mission of Jesus in the lands of the Bible today. The group meets on first Monday of the month in various locations. The next gathering is Monday, March 3 at PCOC, from 6:30 – 8:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.



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.

Extra Ushers and Greeters are Needed.

The usher teams serve one Sunday per month, and we have a few openings. You may sign up to be a permanent member of a team, or you may sign up to usher on individual Sundays that work with your schedule. Sign up online. We're also looking for greeters on Sundays to welcome folks on Sunday morning. Choose your preferred Sunday and door (North door or Welcome Center door). Sign up at the Information Desk on Sunday or online anytime