Gathering in God's Name

Prelude A Lenten Prelude Charles Callahan

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

Silent Meditation

Jesus, you are my true friend. You take part in all of my misfortunes; you take them on yourself. You know how to change them into blessings. You listen to me with the greatest kindness when I relate my trouble to you, and you always have balm to pour on my wounds. I find you at all times, I find you everywhere, I find you wherever I go. You never weary of listening to me. You are never tired of doing good to me. *St. Claude La Colombiere* (1641-1682)

Call to Worship: the Sursum Corda

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

It is right to give our thanks and praise!



Praise and Adoration

*Opening Hymn #224 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ROCKINGHAM

(*Please stand, if you are able)

Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Loving God, we come to you acknowledging that we do not always deal with others as you deal with us. When we err, we hope for grace and mercy. With the errs of others, we are prone to hope for judgment and justice. Forgive us, Lord. Give us the wisdom and the patience to be for others as you would have us be. Help us to be an example in a world that needs us to be good.

Silent Prayers of Confession and Petition



Lord Je-sus, think on me, and purge a-way my sin. From earth-born pas-sions set me free, and make me pure with-in.

Assurance of Pardon

*Welcome

During the welcome, children are invited to come forward for their time with Rev. Garry.

Time for Young Disciples

Announcements

Moment for Mission

Julie Evers, for Camp Calvin Crest

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

Song of the Wanderer (9:00) Stay with Us (11:10) Dan Forrest Egil Hovland

The Old Testament Reading

Psalm 32

page 440 of the pew Bible

Hymn #446

How Blest, Those Whose Transgressions

MEIRIONYDD

Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Lesson

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

page 850 of the pew Bible

Sermon

"Decisions, Decisions"

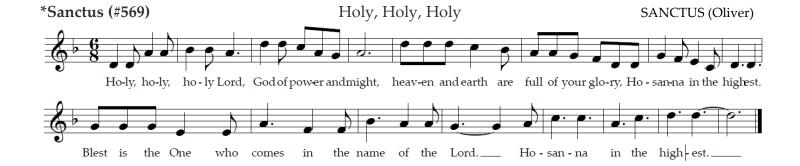
Rev. Garry

Our Response to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

The Westminster Confession of Faith 6.015; 6.059

We believe that although God knows whatsoever may or can come to pass, upon all supposed conditions; yet hath he not decreed anything because he foresaw it as future, or as that which would come to pass, upon such conditions. We believe that God hath endued the will of humankind with that natural liberty, that it is neither forced, nor by any absolute necessity of nature determined to good or evil.



Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

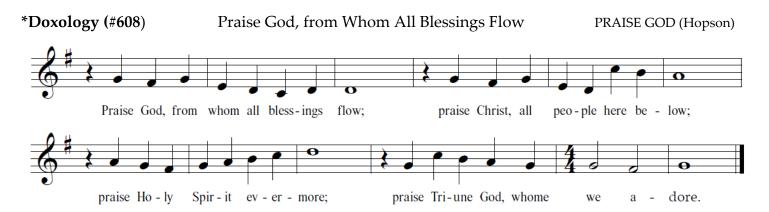
It Is Well with My Soul (9:00)

arr. Craig Courtney

The Joy of Thy Salvation (11:10)

Daniel E. Gawthrop

Commissioned by the choirs of Presbyterian Church of the Cross in honor of forty years of service by Organist & Choir Director Dana Sloan



*Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God, it is said that you work in mysterious ways. And yet it is no mystery to us that you have blessed us greatly. And yet it is no mystery to us that we should bless others greatly. So it is in Your name that we commit these tithes and offerings to you, asking that Your will be done. Amen.

*Hymn of Dedication #418

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

I Love to Tell the Story

Charles Ore

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Music 9:00 Sarah Frederickson, soprano; Mary Lynn Bennet, flute; Mark Kanitz, organ

11:10 Mary Lynn Bennet, flute; Alleluia Singers; Mark Kanitz, organ

Childcare Ministry Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster

Ushers 9:00 Mike Shannon, Captain; Sherryl Shannon, Darold Bauer, Mimi Bauer, Doug Rathman

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

Greeters 9:00 North Door: Owen and Karen Saunders Welcome Center Door: Doug Larson

11:10 North Door: Tim and Kris Goodman Welcome Center Door: Paula Hazelrigg

Information Center 9:00 Mary Ann Pederson 11:10: Pam Swenson

Coffee Host 10:00 Linda Miller

STAFF

Rev. Marshall Zieman, D. Min. Pastor, Head of Staff marshall@pcoc.us Rev. Joshua Garry, M.Div. Associate Pastor josh@pcoc.us Director of Music, Executive Director Vesper Concerts Kristi Treu, M.A. Music kristi@pcoc.us Heather Berry Christian Education Director heather@pcoc.us Rock Sumner **Business Administrator** rock@pcoc.us communications@pcoc.us Christian Fritz **Communications Coordinator** Office Administrator Iulie Hansen churchofthecross@pcoc.us Mark Kanitz Organist mark@pcoc.us

Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min. Pastor Emeritus

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The Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 30

9:00 Worship

10:00 Coffee, Kids and Youth SS Classes

10:00 Lenten Study

11:10 Worship

2-6:30 JHF Tree Rush

4:45 SHF Games

5:00 Lenten Study

Monday, March 31

9 & 11 Music and Movement

10:00 Tai Chi

1:30 Lenten Study

Tuesday, April 1

7:30 Men's Bible Study

9:30 Staff Meeting

11:30 49ers at Wheatfield's

1:00 Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study

1:30 Active Minds

4:00 Congregational Life Committee

5:30 Chamber Singers

6:30 Alleluia Singers

Wednesday, April 2

7:00 Vesper Donor Night

Thursday, April 3

9 & 11 Music and Movement

9:30 Presbyterian Women Bible Study

10:00 Tai Chi

7:00 Lenten Study

7:00 Vesper Concert

Sunday, April 6

9:00 Worship

10:00 Coffee, Kids and Youth SS Classes

10:00 Lenten Study

11:10 Worship

12:15 New Member Discussion

4:45 SHF May Baskets

4:45 IHF Games

5:00 Lenten Study

Joys and Concerns. The flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Clarence and Jean Waters in honor of our PCOC Staff and also by Linda Grohs in memory of her husband, Jim Grohs.

John King fell this week and will be rehabilitating at the VA Hospital in Grand Island. Patti Ritchie had hip replacement surgery last week and is recuperating at home. Doug Patten is navigating some health concerns at the VA Hospital.

Children's Worship Kits

Parents, be sure to pick up worship kits for your children on the way to worship on Sunday mornings (located on a cart in the Narthex). There are two types of kits: for ages 3 – 6, and 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.

49ers on Tuesday, April 1. Our program for Tuesday, will be Josh Planos, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations at Better Business Bureau of the Midwest Plains. He will speak about "Scam Prevention," covering key strategies to protect yourself from scams, what to be on the lookout for, in today's increasingly digital world, and how to safeguard your finances and personal information. The lunch location is Wheatfields, One Pacific Place, at 11:30 a.m. 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.

Tuesday Bible Studies Resume this Week. Join us at 7:00 am (men) or 1:00pm (everyone) this Tuesday, April 1. No foolin'!

Easter Flower Sign Up. The Easter Flower sign-up is available

online or forms are available at the Information Desk. The deadline is March 31.

Easter Egg Hunt Candy Donations. We are accepting donations of individually wrapped candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 19. Look for the plastic tote by the Information Desk to drop off your candy. Thanks!

Active Minds

Canasta will be the game for April at the Active Minds Fellowship Group. Join us when your schedule allows: Tuesdays, 1:30-4:00pm. Lower level Great Room. New players and friends are welcome. We have very patient teachers. Feel free to stop by after Tuesday Bible Study. Questions? Contact Earlene Uhrig.

Thinking about membership at PCOC? A New Member Discussion will be held on April 6, directly following the second worship service. This is an opportunity to learn more about Presbyterian Church of the Cross and to ask questions as you explore the decision to join our congregation. A light lunch will be served so please call the church office or fill out the online form. Let us know of any dietary restrictions. Meet in the Courtyard classroom in the Welcome Center at approximately 12:15.

Communion Class for Children. Parents and children in the 3rd grade are invited to participate in our Communion Class to learn about the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The class will take place on Wednesday, April 9, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Any <u>older</u> children who were unable to attend this class before may also join us. Dinner is included and childcare is available. Registration ends today. Click here to register:



Creating a Masterpiece. You are invited to Omaha Street School's Fundraising Gala, "Creating a Masterpiece" on April 15. Our goal this year is to fill three tables! Sign-up today on the church website or at the Information Desk! Reserve your spot by April 4.



"Ryan & Ryan" is Coming to Vesper Concerts

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 3, at 7:00 p.m. for Ryan & Ryan, a dynamic father/son piano duo. Their concert is called "Kickin' the Clouds Away" and provides a delightful mix of classical crossover, jazz, ragtime, gospel, and blues. Find more information at vesperconcerts.org. As always, this concert is free for all to attend.

Attend the Movie "Divisible" on Tuesday, April 8.

Many have already signed up to see the documentary film, "Divisible" to be shown at the Omaha Conservatory of Music on Tuesday April 8 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. We hope more of you will join us for this documentary, explaining the history, mechanics, and ramifications of redlining in our city, which was prevalent in the last century. Thanks to sponsorships from churches, including Church of the Cross and the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, tickets are free. You just need to register in advance either online



at https://bit.ly/OmahaRedlining or following this QR code. If you don't use a computer or want to carpool, there is a signup sheet at the Information Desk.

Summer Fun for Children and Youth. We don't want you to miss out on our summer activities at Church of the Cross. Put these dates on your calendar now: Vacation Bible School is July 15 - 17, 9 a.m. to Noon, and Art & Music Camp is August 5 - 8, 9 - Noon & 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Spotlight on our Library Stop by our library to check out a book. For April, books by our members are on display. Or choose from 53 "Agape" books on social issues, or 56 biographies, or over 600 children's books!

Tables for Eight – Spring/Summer Session 2025 The deadline for new registrations or making a change for the spring/summer session (May, June, July, and August) is April 10. If you are currently in Tables for Eight as a "Regular" or a "Sub", you will automatically be reassigned to a new group or stay a "Sub. However, if you choose not to participate or want to change your current status," contact Pam Otto or pottomt@cox.net. New "Regular" participants or "Substitutes" (couples or singles) are always welcome to join this fellowship opportunity. "Tables for Eight Registration Form" is on the Website www.churchofthecrossomaha.org.

Camp Calvin Crest.

Hey Parents – are you wondering what to do with your kids this summer? Check out Camp Calvin Crest and give them the opportunity to learn more about God and their faith in a fun, outdoor adventure! Visit **www.calvincrest.camp** to learn more!