



Welcome to Worship

August 17, 2025

10:00 in the Sanctuary

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude

East of Eden

Lee Holdridge; transcr. Mark Kanitz

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

Silent Meditation

It seems to me that if you or I must choose between two courses of thought or action, we should remember our dying and try so to live that our death may bring no pleasure to the world.

East of Eden, John Steinbeck

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 – let us worship God!

Praise and Adoration

*Hymn #30

O God, in a Mysterious Way

DUNDEE

(*Please stand, if you are able)

Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Gracious and Loving God, we acknowledge that You are always near, and always with us. Yet even while this is True, time and again, we fail to see You. We fail to see You, even when You are standing right in front of us. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive us for the moments when You are moving in our lives and we fail to recognize You. Forgive us for the moments when You call to us and we do not answer. Help us instead to welcome You, to set a table before You, just as Your Son did for us. Help us to invite You into our lives; help us to serve You all of the time, and not just when we've made a mess of things. Not just when we're in trouble. For You are good to us all the time, help us be good for You all the time too. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, Have Mercy

Schubert

Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two phrases, and the second staff contains the remaining two phrases.

Assurance of Pardon

*Congregational Response (#581)

Glory Be to the Father

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.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two phrases, and the second staff contains the remaining two phrases.

Welcome

During the Welcome, children are invited to come forward.

Announcements

Moment for Mission

Rob Bailey, for Femi's Heart

Fellowship of Prayer

Joys and Concerns

Anthem

Psalm 139

Allen Pote

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.

Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Lesson

Genesis 18: 1-15

page 12 of the pew Bible

Sermon

"Abraham's Hospitality"

Rev. Joshua Garry

Our Response to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

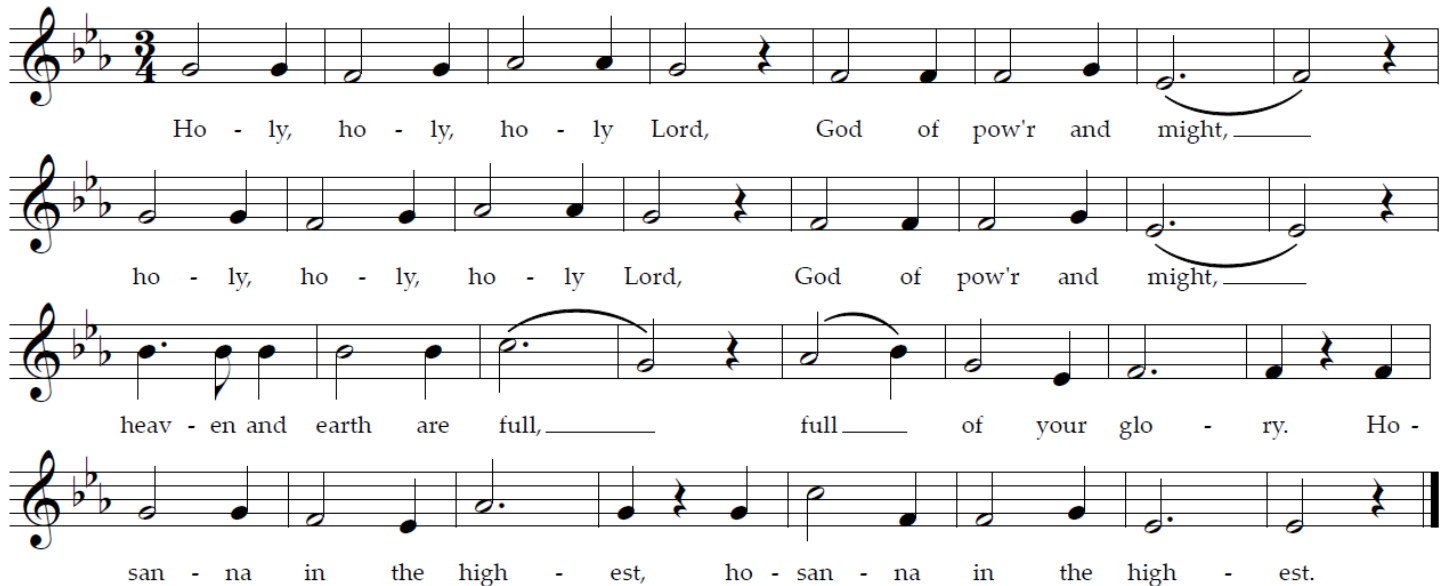
F-1.0304, The Great Ends of the Church, *The Book of Order*

We believe in the great ends of the church: in the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; in the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the Truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. Amen.

*Sanctus (#562)

Holy, Holy, Holy

SANCTUS (Schubert)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, _____
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, _____
heav - en and earth are full, _____ full _____ of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

What a Fellowship

Showalter; arr. Gilber M. Martin

*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

Almighty God, we bring these tithes and offerings before You just as Abraham and Sarah did: they gave their bread, calf, curds, and milk; and so we give our time, talents, effort, and resources. We ask that just as You have blessed us, so would what we give bless others. Amen.

*Hymn #728

Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

SOMEBODY'S KNOCKIN'

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Amen from "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

Peter Lutkin

Postlude

Psalm XIX

Benedetto Marcello

Serving in Ministry Today

Liturgist	Dmitri Garry
Music	Summer Choir; Mark Kanitz, organ
Childcare Ministry	Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster
Ushers	Tim Graumann, Captain; Brenda Graumann, Kathy Moore, Brad Miner
Greeters	North Door: Sandy Simpson & Dwight Peterson Welcome Center Door: Paul & Kathy Nickel
Information Center	Judy Arms
Coffee Host	Sue Barger

Staff

Rev. Marshall Zieman, 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
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Christian Fritz	Communications Coordinator	communications@pcoc.us
Mark Kanitz	Organist	mark@pcoc.us
Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min.	Pastor Emeritus	

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Announcements

For the week of August 17, 2025

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, August 17

- 10:00 Worship
- 11:00 Coffee Fellowship
- 11:00 SHF Car Wash in North Parking Lot

Monday, August 18

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

Tuesday, August 19

- 9:30 Staff Meeting
- 1:30 Active Minds
- 5:30 Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 20

- 5:15 Book Group

Thursday, August 21

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

Friday, August 22

Cross Currents Deadline

Sunday, August 24

- 10:00 Worship
- 11:00 Coffee Fellowship
- 12-3 End of Summer Bash at AllPlay

Summer Schedule May 25 – August 31

- Single Worship Service at 10 a.m.
- Coffee Fellowship at 11 a.m.
- No Sunday school

Office Hours: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Joys & Concerns

The chancel flowers this morning are given by Russ Beernink and Dianne Witmer in memory of Don and June Beernink.

We learned this week that Betty Woodhull passed away: our thoughts and prayers are with her family; memorial service plans pending.

We also learned that John Hall passed away this past Friday after being in hospice since June, 4th. Please keep his wife Bernice, his daughter Cheryl, and the rest of their family in your prayers as they navigate this difficult time; memorial service plans pending.



Senior High Car Wash is Today!

Bring your dirty cars to the north parking lot to have your car cleaned by the SHF group! The event begins immediately after worship and ends at 1:00 p.m.

Donations will be accepted. All proceeds will go towards next year's mission trip. Thanks for your support!

Today's Moment For Mission - Femi's Heart

We will be launching a collection of personal hygiene items to support our newest mission partner, Femi's Heart Foundation and their October Mission Trip. From August 17- September 20, collection bins will be stationed outside the sanctuary and in the front entrance circle driveway to place items. The bins will have pictures of the items being collected for easy identification. Following the collection, COC youth groups will help pack the kits to be shipped to Benin, Africa and handed to 1,000 young girls at several locations. Femi's Heart Board is very thankful for your support.

Tables for Eight Fall Session – last chance. The deadline for registration for the fall session (September, October, November and December) is here. New participants (couples or singles) are definitely welcome to join this fellowship opportunity. You can choose to be a "Regular" or a Substitute." Questions and answers about "Tables for Eight" are on the registration form, and the form is available at the Information Desk or online at www.churchofthecrossomaha.org.

All-Play All-Church Picnic next Sunday, August 24. Come one, come all, to the PCOC End of Summer Bash!!! On August 24th from noon to 3pm at the All Play Complex (Seymour Smith Park 6802 Harrison St) our church will be hosting a wide-ranging array of fun activities for everyone to join in on. Feel free to bring a lunch, or utilize the food truck that will be there, and enjoy some FREE Kona ice. Bring the little ones and let them play in the bounce house while some of the bigger kids and adults play in what will surely be a competitively hilarious kickball game! If the bouncy house or the kickball game aren't really your cup of tea... no problem! You can still join in on the fun by participating in some yard games in the sun or hanging out in the shade playing music bingo, which will be held in the pavilion; or, if none of those activities pique your interest, just come on down to cheer on those participating in the fun!

The All-Play Miracle Baseball Fall League runs through September 13. Over a hundred volunteers are needed each Saturday to assist the over 400 players. Games begin at 8:30 and volunteer shifts are two hours. Sign up as an individual or bring a group at www.allplay.org.

Active Minds Has Resumed on Tuesdays at 1:30 in the Great Room. This month: Dominoes and Rummikub.

Sing with Alleluia Singers beginning on August 27!

A shiny, new choir season begins! Our first night of rehearsal is Wednesday, August 27. Are you ready to jump in? Email Kristi at kristi@pcoc.us and let her know you'd like to join.

GALS on Thursday August 21. GALS (Growing and Loving Servants). Buzz into beauty with Pollinator Gardening, a fun and inspiring talk by the Nebraska Extension Office on Thursday, August 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM! Learn how to turn your garden into a haven for bees, butterflies, and blooms — just in time for late summer planting. GALS of Presbyterian Church of the Cross, grab your girlfriends and get ready to grow something beautiful together! Sign Up via SignUP Genius.

Agape for All Visits South Omaha on Saturday, August 23. Do you know how many different cultures have immigrated to South Omaha through the centuries? Have you experienced the richness of the current Mexican/Latino South Omaha community? We hope you'll join us to learn a bit of that history and sample today's food and culture. A tour of El Museo Latino (4701 S 25th St) will start at 10:30 on Saturday, August 23. The museum is currently undergoing renovation so we'll visit the one open gallery and their staff will give us a presentation on the immigrant history of the South Omaha Neighborhood. We'll then drive to a 24th Street restaurant to enjoy an authentic Mexican lunch. Afterwards, some of you may want to walk a block to the International Bakery to take home a culinary treat for later. Carpooling will be available leaving the church parking lot at 10:00 and returning about 2:00. Please sign up by August 18th, online or at the Information Desk. Contact Kathy Moore if you have questions.

Welcome Reception for Annika Congregational Life is welcoming our new Community Engagement Coordinator and Office Administrator, Annika Shaw, with a reception on Sunday, September 14 at 10:00 in between the two services. Meet our newest staff member while enjoying donut holes, pastries, and fruit in Fellowship Hall!

Back to School Supplies Drive Update The 2025 Back to School Supplies Drive has completed with resounding success once again! We collected 172 backpacks vs. goal of 150 as well as 60 grocery bags full of assorted school supplies for our partner schools. All the supplies were delivered on August 11 and 12th to ILP at Saratoga Elementary, Walnut Hill, Wakonda, Bancroft, and Sherman Elementary schools ahead of the first day for students on August 14. A big thanks to the congregation for stepping up once again. We are now in a record seven straight years of surpassing our goal!

Library Spotlight! Stop by the library after worship this morning. Check out one of the 5 Star ***** books on display in the window. Non-fiction, Biographies, Faith, History, Diversity, and more.



Coming in September...

Music Department Fall Kick-Off Party on September 1. ALL PCOC musicians and their families are invited to kick off the year with food and fellowship on Monday, September 1, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This includes everyone in children's choir, handbells, the brass ensemble, and adult choirs. The church will provide the main course, and you can sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. Please sign up online by August 27.

49ERS on Tuesday, September 2

Our program for Tuesday, September 2, 2025, will be Becky Zieman. We will have a question-and-answer opportunity with Becky, so bring your questions for her please!!! The lunch location is Wheatfields, One Pacific Place, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome, whether 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.

Presbyterian Women September 4

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study begins on Thursday, September 4th at 9:30 am in the Courtyard classroom. We will again be using a Bible study by Dale and Sandy Larsen called "Images of the Spirit". You get a mental picture of Jesus Christ and no doubt an image of God the Father. The Holy Spirit is different. We might think of it as a vague, fuzzy cloud. We will be studying the third person of the Trinity to bring him into focus in our lives. The booklet is \$10. Please contact me if you want one or if you have any questions, Cindy Nisley. You can also purchase your booklet for \$10 from Carol Sorensen on Sunday August 24 before or after our church service. Carol will be across from the library.

The Tuesday Bible Studies are now on break for the summer. We will resume sometime after Labor Day.

Our Children Need YOU!

Bible Explorers is our Sunday School program for our elementary students. It is a rotation-based program that requires thirty teachers a year to run smoothly. Currently we have several spots unfilled.

Parents, Grandparents, and church members, we need your help! Please consider pairing up with your spouse or a friend and teaching a workshop. You'll be amazed at how much you will learn from teaching the Bible story to the children. Contact Heather for more information and to sign up.

Sunday School for all ages begins September 7.

Preschool Sunday School – three-, four-, and five-year-olds that haven't been to kindergarten yet will meet upstairs in Room 7. Anna Flairty and Libby Whitlow will lead this class.

Bible Explorers – elementary aged children will meet downstairs in the Gathering Space for a short lesson with Sue Thomas. Then they will split up into different age groups and experience various workshops in rooms 8, 9 and 10.

Junior High – 6th, 7th and 8th graders will meet downstairs in Room 11. Holly Baddley will be leading this class.

Senior High – 9th – 12th graders will meet downstairs in the Great Room. Dan Kerr will be leading this class.

JHF and SHF begin September 7

Come join one of our youth fellowship groups; JHF if you are in 6th, 7th or 8th grade, or SHF if you are in 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade. We will kick off our year on September 7 with some good old-fashioned fun and games. We will meet in the Great Room from 4:45 – 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Don't miss out!

Fall Adult Education

Are you saved or are you Presbyterian?

Finding God in the Abyss, Part I. The Holocaust

What do you believe? An Introductory Theological Survey

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for All, The Kerygma Program

Names for the Messiah, An Advent Study

Behold the Beauty of the Lord, A Simple Christmas: How the Amish Celebrate the Beauty of the Lord

Go to our website for a complete description of the classes and to register.

If you have any questions or need help registering, contact Heather.

Wednesday Night Cornerstone Begins on September 10.

Registration for the fall semester of Cornerstone has begun. Choose from two adult education classes, Credo and Children's Choir, children's education classes, and of course, a delicious dinner! You don't have to attend dinner to participate in education or choir, but I don't see why you wouldn't!

Choirs

5:15 – 6:00 PM Children's Choir (1st - 5th grade)

5:15 – 6:00 PM Credo Choir (6th – 12th grade)

5:50 – 6:45 PM Chamber Singers

6:50 – 8:20 PM Alleluia Singers

Dinner is served between 6:00 – 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Childcare is provided from 5:00 – 8:15 PM.

Bible Study

6:30 – 7:15 PM Preschool – Kindergarten

6:30 – 7:15 PM 1st – 4th grade

6:30 – 7:15 PM 5th – 7th grade

6:30 – 7:30 PM Confirmation Class for 8th grade

6:30 – 7:30 PM The Gospel of Luke led by Kirk Ryckman

6:30 – 7:30 PM What do you believe? Led by Pastor Josh Garry

Please register online by September 1.

If you have any questions or need help registering, contact Heather.

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