

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude Prelude in G Major J.S. Bach

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

Silent Meditation

What is both good and new about the good news is the mad insistence that Jesus lives on among us not just as another haunting memory but as the outlandish, holy, and invisible power of God working not just through the sacraments, but in countless hidden ways to make even slobs like us loving and whole beyond anything we could conceivably pull off by ourselves. - Frederick Buechner

Call to Worship

Seek the Lord! Seek God in the wilderness.

Seek God in the sanctuary.

Seek God in the burning bush.

Seek God in the burning heart.

The Lord is here! This place is holy!

We are standing on holy ground. Let us worship our Holy God.

Praise and Adoration

***Hymn #826** Lift High the Cross CRUCIFER

(*Please stand, if you are able)

Confession and Pardon

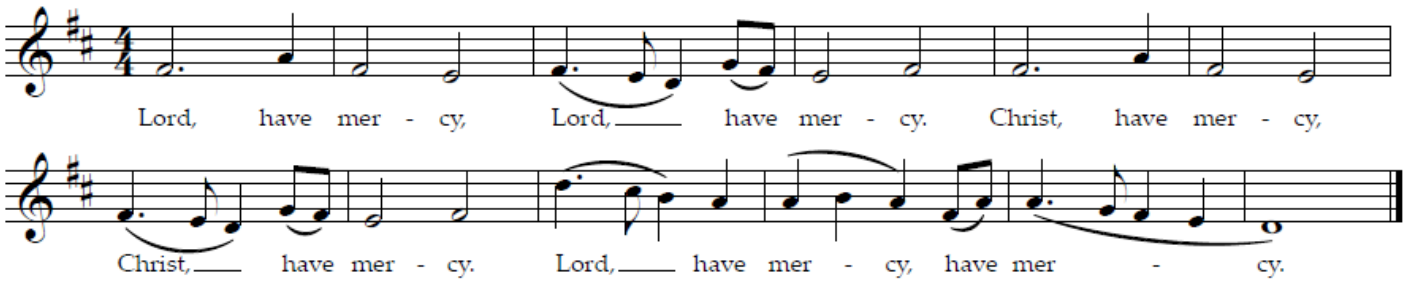
Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of wonders, we confess that we do not understand why you call us when we are scared, clumsy, busy or flawed. We confess that we think we know better than you do who is qualified to do your work. Forgive our fears and excuses and self-doubts. Lend us your fire and your strength, as we go about the work of serving our neighbors, building up your church, loving your children, and tending to the scorched places of our world. Help us to burn for you, without burning up or burning out. Give us a purpose and the courage to pursue it. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

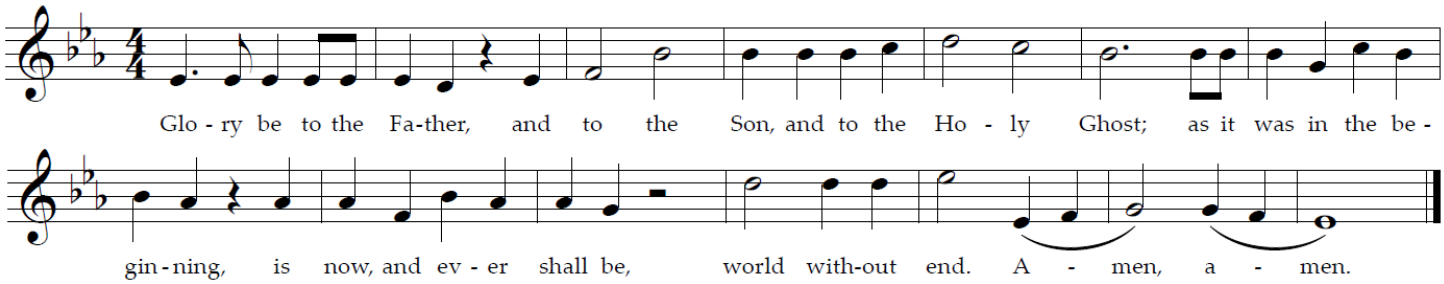
Silent Prayers of Confession and Petition

Kyrie Eleison Lord, Have Mercy SCHUBERT



Assurance of Pardon

***Congregational Response (#581)** Glory Be to the Father GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)



***Welcome** *During the Welcome, children are invited to come forward.*

Time for Young Disciples

Announcements

Moment for Mission Linda Reimer, Executive Director of the Omaha Street School

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 Come Home Craig Courtney

Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Lesson Matthew 16: 21-28 page 798 of the pew Bible

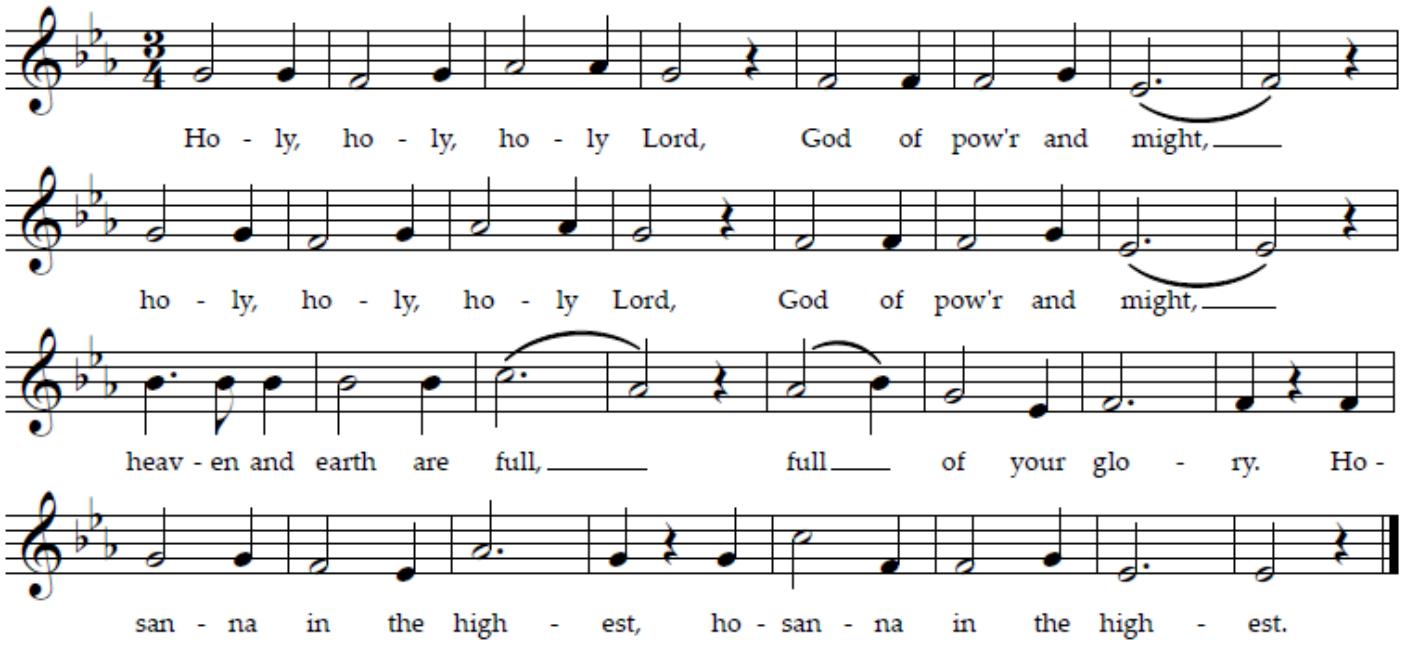
Sermon "Messiah 2.0" Dr. Zieman

Our Response to God's Word

***Affirmation of Faith** adapted from the Confession of 1967

God's sovereign love is a mystery beyond the reach of our minds. We believe that God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, transcendence and awe-fulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. We believe that God has created us for a personal relationship in which we may respond to the love of the Creator. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.

***Sanctus (#562)** Holy, Holy, Holy SANCTUS (Schubert)



Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory The King of Love My Shepherd Is arr. Dan Forrest

***Doxology (#609)** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

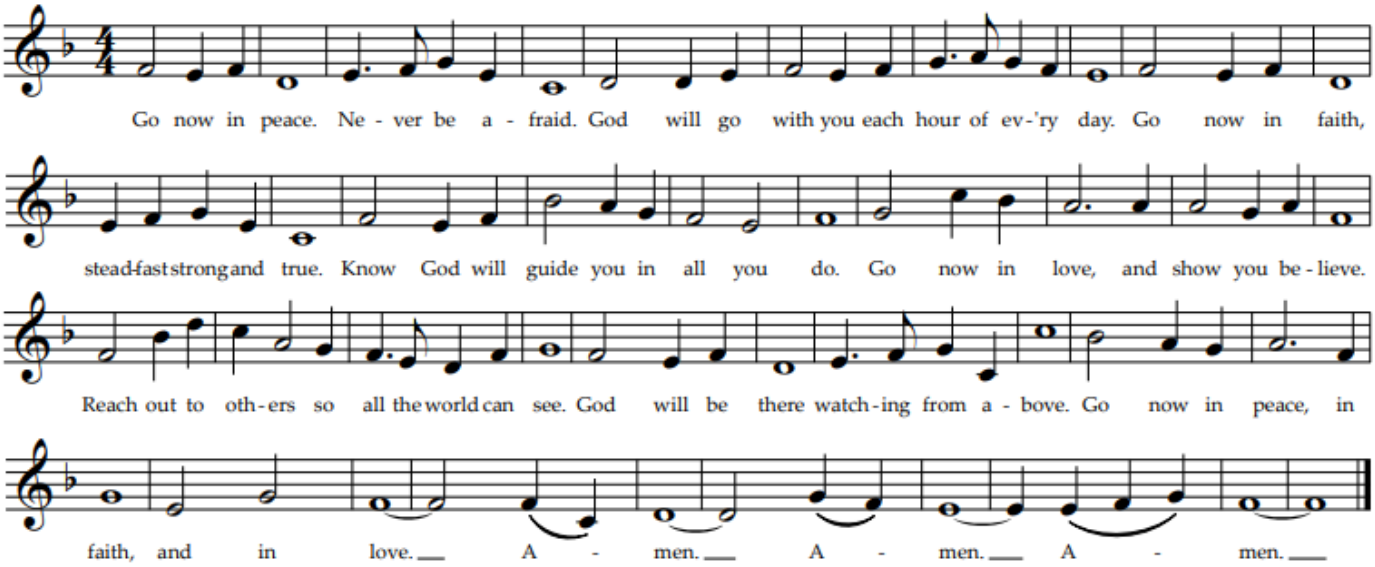
***Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, we offer our gifts to you, grateful for all you have given us, and grateful for the chance to give to others. Build up your church through these offerings, that we might be a place where your goodness is seen, practiced, and shared. Amen.

***Hymn of Dedication #718** Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said BOURBON

***Charge and Benediction**

***Benediction Response** Go Now in Peace Don Besig



Postlude Evening and Morning Kevin Hildebrand

Serving in Ministry Today

Music	Joe Mendick, bass; Kristi Treu, piano; Mark Kanitz, organ	
Childcare Ministry	Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster	
Ushers	Neal Hubbard, Trudy Meyer, Richard Meyer, Barbara Thompson, Chet Thompson	
Greeters	North Door: Kristine Gasko	Welcome Center Door: Kris Goodman
Information Center	Pam Swenson	
Coffee Host	Cindy Rieke	

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
Mimi Bauer	Financial Administrator	mimi@pcoc.us
Gary Marron	Facilities Manager	gmarron.51@outlook.com
Annika Shaw	Office Administrator, Community Engagement	churchofthecross@pcoc.us
Christian Fritz	Communications Coordinator	communications@pcoc.us
Mark Kanitz	Organist	mark@pcoc.us
Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min.	Pastor Emeritus	

Announcements

For the week of August 30, 2026

PRESBYTERIAN
Church of the Cross

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, August 30, 2026
10:00 Worship
11:00 Coffee Fellowship

Monday, August 31
9 & 11 Music and Movement

Tuesday, September 1
9:30 Staff Meeting
11:30 49ers at Wheatfield's
1:30 Active Minds
4:00 Congregational Life Committee

Wednesday, September 2
5:30 Chamber Singers
6:30 Alleluia Singers
6:30 Confirmation Mentor Meeting

Thursday, September 3
9 & 11 Music and Movement
9:30 Presbyterian Women Bible Study and Meeting
10:00 Tai Chi

Sunday, September 6
10:00 Worship
11:00 Coffee Fellowship
11:00 Cindy Sloan/Michael Paulus Class "Behold the Beauty of the Lord"

Summer Schedule May 24 – September 6
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 and Concerns. The flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Barbara and Chet Thompson in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary, by Janet Wallace in memory of her dear husband, David, by Dodie Bellus in honor of Joe's birthday, by Diane and Kevin Wetuski in memory of Diane's mother, Madeline Stebbins, and by a friend in honor of Judy and A.J. Sundberg's 64th wedding anniversary.

Today's Moment for Mission is given by Linda Reimer of the Omaha Street School, an alternative high school for students who have not found success in a traditional school setting. OSS empowers at-risk students to discover new hope and success through education, vocation, and love in a Christ-centered environment.

September Active Minds will be a choice of games for 2 or 4 players. Backgammon (easy to learn), Cribbage (love math), or Mancala (game of strategy). Come enjoy the fellowship and learn something new this month. If you have any of these 3 games at home, please bring yours to share in September! Contact: Earlene Uhrig

Presbyterian Women on September 3. We will gather this Thursday, September 3 at 9:30 am in the Courtyard classroom. We are excited to return to the Presbyterian Women's Horizon Bible Study. This year's topic "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other" is based on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and to be led by Carol Sorensen. We are welcoming new members this Fall as we look for more congregation women to join us...all are welcome! If you need a $20 lesson book, contact Carol Sorensen. Other questions? Contact Cindy Nisley.

September 6, after worship in the Sanctuary: A Reading of "The Three Temptations" by Charles Williams. Charles Williams was an influential member of the Inklings, an Oxford literary group that included C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien. His 1942 radio play "The Three Temptations" provides a modern interpretation of Jesus's resistance against diabolically false hopes. The play will be read by Cindy Sloan and others, followed by a discussion facilitated by Michael Paulus, who directs the University Libraries and the Institute for Adaptive Intelligence at Creighton University. Early in his academic career he discovered a cache of unpublished materials by Williams, which inspired a series of historical, literary, and theological essays.

Chamber and Alleluia Rehearsals have begun! Chamber Singers rehearse at 5:30, and Alleluia Singers follow at 6:30. It's not too late to join! Contact Kristi if you have questions.

Garden Help Needed

Want to serve our church while being outside? Consider adopting a garden bed. This involves cleanup in the Spring and weeding throughout the growing season. Contact Linda Matson with questions or to pick a garden. If you already have adopted a bed, let Linda know exactly where it is.

Usher Support! We need about 7 more ushers for the 11:10 service to complete our teams.

During the school year, we have usher teams that serve for one service, once a month. We need a few more ushers to fill our teams. The current open positions are: on the 1st Sunday of the month there are 2 open slots at 11:10, on the 2nd Sunday there is 1 opening at 11:10, and on the 4th Sunday there are 4 openings at 11:10. Contact Mary Lynn Bennett to learn more info about joining one of our usher teams.

Cornerstone Registration has begun!

Our fall semester of Cornerstone begins September 16, with dinner, choir, and Bible study for all ages! Jerry Cornett is cooking our meals this year, so you don't want to miss out! Please register online or at the Information Desk by September 1 to secure your spot. If you have any questions, contact Heather.

Help Us Welcome Our New Children's Choir Director!



After much searching, Samyak Pandit has agreed to lead our children's choir program on Wednesday evenings during Cornerstone. Samyak is a recent graduate of UNL with a degree in music education and vocal and choral studies. He is also a graduate of Westside High School. The choir is for children in grades 1-5 and rehearsals begin on September 16 at 5:15. Please register your child online or at the Information Desk by September 1.



Credo Choir Also Begins on September 16

If you are in grades 6-12, please sign up for Credo Choir on Wednesday evenings from 5:15 – 5:45 in the Choir Room. The word "credo" means "I believe," and Credo Choir is a place where our youth can sing about what they believe. Kristi Treu directs this fun and energetic group, and she hopes you'll join her.

PCOC Mission Trip to the Southern Border

At 10:00 on September 13, Daniel Bennett will be in Fellowship Hall to talk about an adult PCOC mission trip next February to visit the ministry of Frontera de Cristo in Douglas, Arizona. Founded 1n 1984 upon a coalition of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico and the Presbyterian Church (USA), Frontera de Cristo works to build relationships and understanding across borders, serving both migrants and community members.

GO SOLO First Friday Coffee September 4

The Go SOLO fellowship group is for anyone wanting to know more people at PCOC. Some want to explore Omaha and prefer company when they do! Some want to sit and visit. Feel free to join our email lists if you live alone, have a partner, or just want to meet other like-minded folks. The September first Friday coffee will be held on September 4, at 9:30 am in the Hearth Room of the Welcome Center.

Fall Adult Education Opportunities – Register Online Now!

The Christian Imagination and Literature, led by Michael Paulus and Lucinda Sloan
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. from September 13 – October 18

The twentieth century, although often thought of as a secular period, has had great works of literature written that at their core address theological issues. T. S. Eliot's "The Waste Land", Charles Williams' "The Three Temptations", Flannery O'Conner's "Revelation" and "Good Country People" and Fyodor Dostoevsky's "The Grand Inquisitor" will be examined. All the stories and the poems are available free as pdfs. Questions to guide your reading will be supplied. We aim for lively discussion and reflection on important questions for which we still seek answers.

Falling Upward, led by Keith Allen
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. from September 27 – December 27

In ***Falling Upward***, Richard Rohr (A Franciscan priest and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation) takes us on a journey to give us an understanding of how the "Falling" in life – the heartbreaks, disappointments, and first loves - are actually stepping-stones to the "Upwards" in life – the spiritual growth that the second half of our life has in store for us. With rare insight, Rohr calls for us to recognize the promise of this journey and to follow it into the wider dimensions of our spiritual authenticity. Fortunately, this "second half of life" need not wait till our middle years. It emerges whenever we are ready and able to expand beyond the familiarity and safety of our current path.
Join us this September for a 13-week study of **Falling Upward** with Richard Rohr as our guide. Led by Keith Allen, the class will follow Rohr's book, chapter by chapter, and will also incorporate reflections, questions and experiential exercises that have been pulled from Rohr's companion journal that accompanies the book. Suggested Book Donation $15.

The Anxious Generation, led by Quinn McGuire
Sundays at 4:45 p.m. from September 13 – October 25

Together we will explore Jonathan Haidt's research on the rise of anxiety, depression, and loneliness among children and adolescents while discussing how Christian families can intentionally cultivate resilient, connected, faith-filled children in a digital world. This study is designed to encourage conversation—not debate—and to leave each session with practical ideas families can begin using immediately. Register Online. Suggested Book Donation $15.

Tuesday Bible Studies, led by Dr. Marshall Zieman
Tuesdays at 7 a.m. for Men and 1:00 p.m. for Everyone. Class begins September 15

How brave a person are you? Do you consider yourself a brave person? If you faced a hardship, how well would you cope? Do you think you would rise to the challenge? What resources would you draw upon? Could you be brave enough to get through it? How would you get through it?
Our word "comfort" comes from the Latin word *fortis*, which means brave – it's like when you are comforted, you are fortified. Receiving comfort, or comforting someone else, involves being strengthened. You become brave as you are strengthened.
Through specific events occurring in the Early Church in Corinth, Greece, the Apostle Paul wrote letters to guide, encourage, and challenge them to remain faithful in following Christ. They were a congregation in troubled times, and Paul was a man who knew trouble. He stressed these things:

- God comforts us in the midst of affliction.
- God strengthens us in the midst of weakness.
- The key to suffering lies in endurance.
- As God comforts us, we gain the power to comfort others.

These are some of the themes we'll be addressing this fall in the Tuesday Bible Studies as we read through 2 Corinthians together each week. Feel free to join in, either at 7:00 a.m. (men) or at 1:00 p.m. (everyone). Just bring your favorite Bible and come to the Welcome Center, beginning on September 15.

Acts of the Apostles, led by Dr. Kirk Ryckman
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. from September 16 – November 18

This fall the after dinner adult ed class will be looking at the ***Acts of the Apostles***. We will be using this study for both Fall and Winter. The author of the student's guides, Carol Miller, is a gifted and insightful writer and teacher. This is the second book of our Bible written by Luke. This is the best history of how those eleven remaining disciples took the Good News Jesus taught and the wonder of the Resurrection and took it to the world. This is the story of how Paul, the author of 1/3 of our New Testament, went from persecuting the early church to being a major factor in its growth and success in the Roman world. Fun times. Lots of discussion. All questions are welcomed. Join us!
Suggested Book Donation $30.

First Things First, led by Rev. Josh Garry
Wednesdays during Cornerstone at 6:30 p.m. from September 16 – November 18

Genesis 12-50: The Old Testament Magic Continues! Last spring during our Cornerstone Class we read through Genesis 1-11, a collection of scripture known as the Primeval Narratives – the very foundation of the entire Bible. Now we continue our quest into Genesis 12-50, a collection of scripture known as the Patriarchal Narratives – the texts which provide us with the stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Few words have shaped the history of the entire world such as these stories. The Patriarchal Narratives serve not only as the theological and historical structure for our own faith but also that of Judaism and Islam. No need to have taken the previous course or attend classes in succession, just a desire to read and sift through the Bible together.

Advent in Plain Sight led by Ardys Hansum and Carol Sorensen
Sundays at 10 a.m. and Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom from November 22 – December 13

In this daily devotional for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Jill Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation – objects we encounter in our own lives. Readers will find new meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' coming. By connecting everyday objects with biblical texts, readers see the near kingdom of heaven on earth and ponder what that divine proximity enables and asks them to do and be. Each daily devotional features Scripture reading, prayer, and reflection, reminding Christians that God still dwells among us, even in the most ordinary places. Register Online. Suggested Book Donation $12.