

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude Earth and All Stars Robert Hobby

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

Silent Meditation

"In my struggle to find church, I've often felt that if I could just find the right denomination or the right congregation, if I could just become the right person or believe the right things, then my search would be over at last. But right's got nothing to do with it. Waiting around for right will leave you waiting around forever. The church is God saying: "I'm throwing a banquet, and all these mismatched, messed-up people are invited. Here, have some wine."

Rachel Held Evans, Searching for Sunday: Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church

Call to Worship from Psalm 103:1-4

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,

Bless God's holy name!

God forgives. God heals. Gods transforms with steadfast love.

Bless God's holy name!

Praise and Adoration

***Hymn #81** Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken AUSTRIAN HYMN

(*Please stand, if you are able)

Confession and Pardon

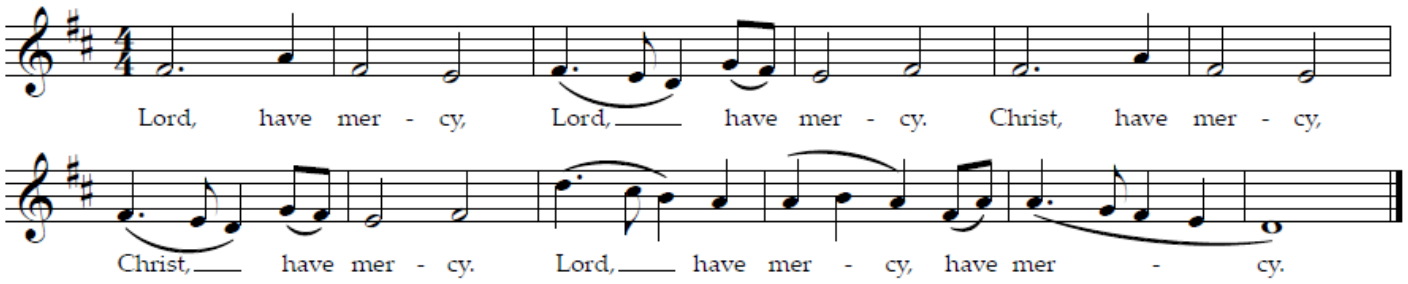
Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

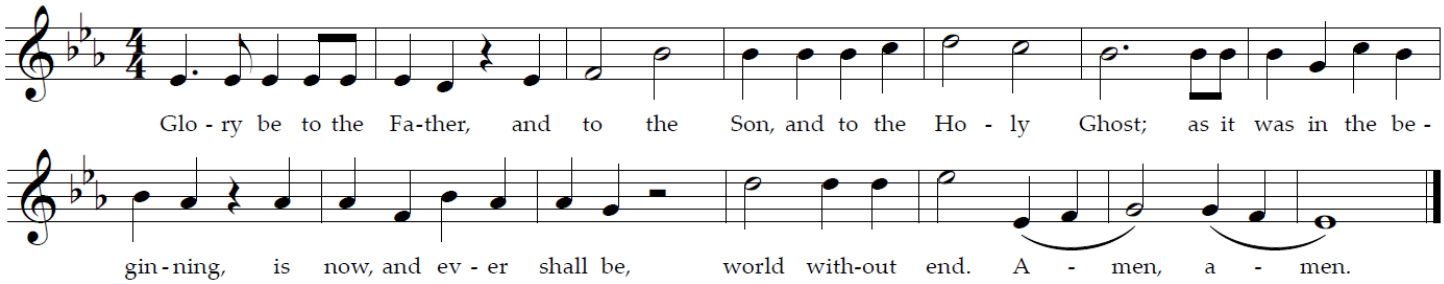
Silent Prayers of Confession and Petition

Kyrie Eleison Lord, Have Mercy SCHUBERT



Assurance of Pardon

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



***Welcome**

Announcements

Moment for Mission Daniel Bennett, for the Mission Committee

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.

Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Lesson Matthew 18: 21-35 page 800 of the pew Bible

Sermon "Try to Do Likewise" Dr. Zieman

Prayer

Our Response to God's Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory God, You Made All Things for Singing Benjamin Kornelis

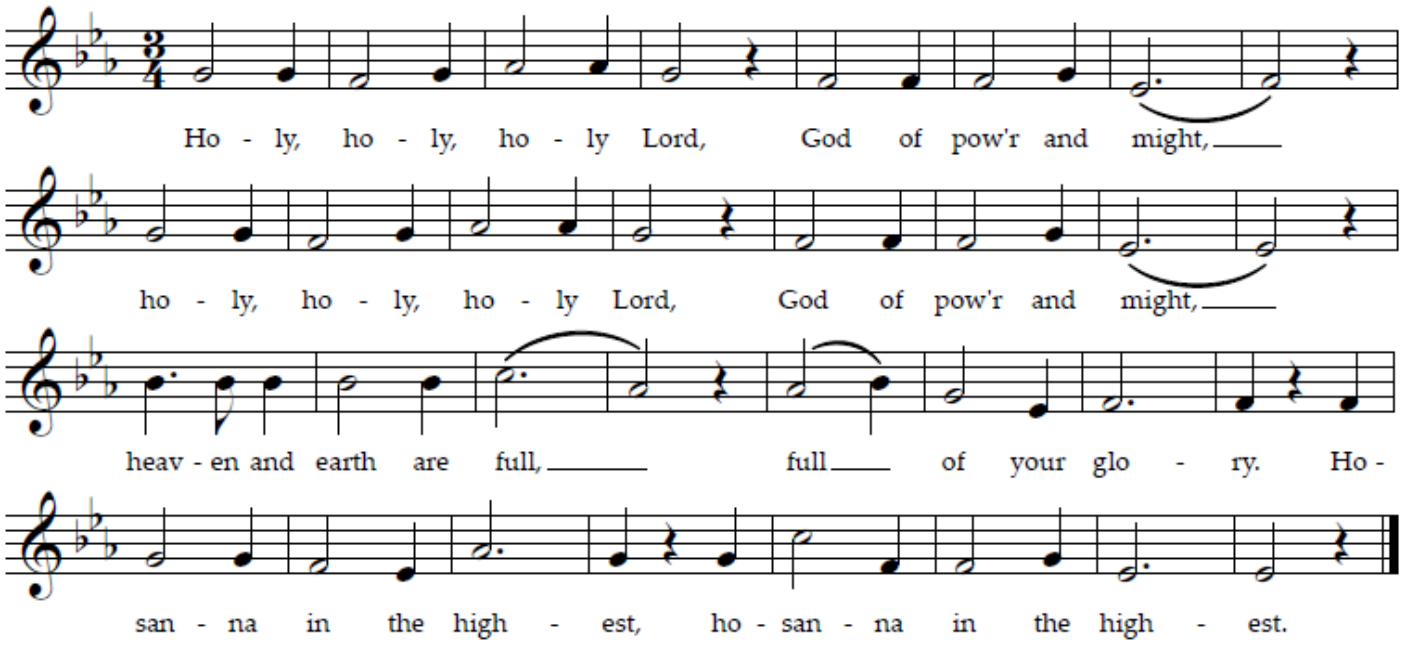
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

***Affirmation of Faith** from The Book of Common Worship

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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



The Words of Institution

The Serving of the Elements

Please come forward as directed by an usher. All baptized Christians are encouraged to partake – by taking a piece of bread and dipping it into the cup. Gluten-free bread is at the station closer to the pulpit. If you are unable to come forward, an elder will serve you in the pew.

Communion Anthem Come to the Water Lynda Hasseler

Evan Mott, soloist

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

***Hymn of Dedication #264** At the Name of Jesus KING'S WESTON

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude Earth and All Stars Charles Ore

Serving in Ministry Today

Music		Alleluia Singers; Mark Kanitz, organ
Childcare Ministry		Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster
Elders serving Communion	9:00	Libby Whitlow, Laurie Kerr, Carol Sorenson, Linda Miller, Valerie Fuller
	11:10	Cindy Rieke, Ed Leach, Mike Howland, Kris Goodman, Kathryn Vint
Ushers	9:00	Jim Miller, Captain; Linda Miller, Gary Marron, Marsha Marron, Frank McMullen
	11:10	Tim Goodman, Captain; Kris Goodman, Judy Sundberg, Dan Scanlan
Greeters	9:00	North Door: Barb Haar Rightmyer Welcome Center Door: Brad Miner
	11:10	North Door: Mary Ann Pederson Welcome Center Door: Carol Crawford
Information Center	11:10	Nancy Anderson
Coffee Host		Jane Burch

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 September 13, 2026

PRESBYTERIAN
Church of the Cross

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, September 13, 2026
9:00 Worship with Communion
10:00 Coffee Fellowship, Sunday School for all
10:00 Mission Trip Info in Fellowship Hall
11:10 Worship with Communion
11-3 Caring and Sharing at Don and Millie's
2:00 Pageant Rehearsal
4:15 Serve Dinner at Siena Francis House
4:45 Anxious Generation Class

Monday, September 14
9 & 11 Music & Movement
6:00 Worship & Music Committee Meeting
6:30 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting
6:30 Christian Education Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 15
7:00 Men's Bible Study resumes
9:30 Staff Meeting
1:00 Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study resumes
1:30 Active Minds
5:00 Membership Committee Meeting
5:30 Finance Committee Meeting
6:30 Mission Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 16
5:15 PCOC Book Group
5:15 Children & Credo Choir
5:50 Chamber Singers
6:00 Cornerstone Dinner
6:30 Confirmation Class
6:50 Alleluia Singers
7:30 Acolyte Training

Thursday, September 17
9 & 11 Music & Movement

Friday, September 18 - Cross Currents Deadline

Sunday, September 20 – Pantry Sunday
9:00 Worship
10:00 Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall
10:00 Sunday School Classes
11:10 Worship

Worship Services at 9:00 & 11:10 a.m.
Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship at 10 a.m.
Office Hours: 9:00 to 4:30 Monday-Friday

Joys and Concerns. The flowers in the chancel today are given by Ron Wax and Family in memory of Linda Wax and in honor of their 62nd Wedding anniversary.

A Return to our Fall Schedule

Today we return to worship services at 9:00 & 11:10, with the Sunday School hour and Coffee Fellowship Hour at 10:00. The church office is open 9:00 – 4:30, Monday – Friday.

PCOC Mission Trip to the Southern Border

At 10:00 today, 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.

Today is PCOC Day at Don & Millie's! Join us between 11-3 at the West Center & 108th St. location. 20% of every dollar spent on food and beverages goes toward our annual Junior High Summer Mission Trip. This is yet another way you can support the youth of our church and enjoy a meal that you don't have to prepare or clean up! Be sure to mention Presbyterian Church of the Cross when your order is placed.

DON & MILLIE'S

The Tuesday Bible Studies Resume this Week

Come at either 7:00 am (Men) or 1:00 pm (Everyone) as we begin a new study of 2 Corinthians with Dr. Zieman. We meet in the Welcome Center. Bring your favorite Bible & an inquiring mind!

PCOC Book Group meets Sept. 16 in The Courtyard Classroom

from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. to review *Isola* by Allegra Goodman. All readers are welcome! Questions? Contact Charlotte Hubbard.

Coming in 2 weeks - Deacons Blood Drive on September 27.

The Red Cross will be at PCOC from 9:00 – 2:00 on Sept. 27 for a Blood Drive sponsored by our Deacons. Help us reach our goal of registering 25 donors! Sign ups are available at: the table in the Welcome Center, going online at PCOC, or in the Red Cross website at redcross.org.

Active Minds – Tuesdays in 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

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 – Don't Miss Out!

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 ASAP 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.

Children's Christmas Pageant – Register Now

This year's pageant will look a little different. We plan to present a shortened version of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson. We need your youth and children to make this possible. Please register on our church website or contact Heather for more information. We hope you will help us make this year's pageant the best ever!

Heartland Hope Mission Update

Our pantry mission partner, Heartland Hope Mission (HHM), currently has many opportunities for PCOC members to actively be involved in supporting their organization to feed and clothe those in need in the Omaha metro and northeast Nebraska area. HHM's west Omaha location at 15555 Industrial Road provides a weekly pantry distribution to clients every Wednesday from 1:30 - 3:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to help distribute grocery and hygiene items to the clients. There are several other weekly volunteer opportunities at their other South Omaha location listed on their website at https://www.heartlandhopemission.org.

Other Heartland Hope Mission events coming soon are as follows:

- Annual Stuff-a-Truck food collection with Hy-Vee (October 5 - 11). Omaha area Hy-Vee grocery stores are partnering with HHM to collect non-perishable food items and request donations to HHM's food pantry.
- Annual Heartland Hope Mission Gala (Friday, October 23, 6:30 - 8:30 pm) - Be one of ten PCOC members at a reserved table for a delicious dinner, information and fun at their annual fundraiser.

If interested in knowing more about HHM or volunteering for an event listed above, please sign up online at heartlandhopemission.org or contact John Bennett. Thank you for your continued support of Heartland Hope Mission. - John Bennett, Mission Committee

Fall Adult Education Opportunities – Register Online Now!

The Christian Imagination and Literature, led by Michael Paulus and Lucinda Sloan has been rescheduled to January 10 – February 14, 2027.

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.

The 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.