PRESBYTERIAN
Church of the Cross

Welcome to Worship

Sunday, November 29th, 2026

9:00 and 11:10 a.m.

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude Est ist ein Ros entsprungen (A Rose has sprung up) Johannes Brahms

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

Silent Meditation

The two Testaments look to Jesus Christ, the Old as its expectation and the New as its model, and both have Him as their centre. Consider that from the beginning of the world the expectation and adoration of the Messiah has been uninterrupted – Blaise Pascal



The first Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope The Bauer-Trapp Family (Joe, Kate, Mika, Brooks) (9:00)
The Tot Family (Bidong, Tori, Michael, James, Josie, Annemarie) (11:10)

Congregational Response Light a Candle Bright and Tall DIX, arr. David Wood

Light a candle bright and tall
For the Hope within our world.
Hope that heard the ages' call
As the stars and planets whirled.
Shine within our hearts today
Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.

Opening Prayer and Scripture Isaiah 40: 28-29

Praise and Adoration

***Advent Hymn #105** People, Look East BESANÇON
(*Please stand, if you are able.)

Confession and Pardon

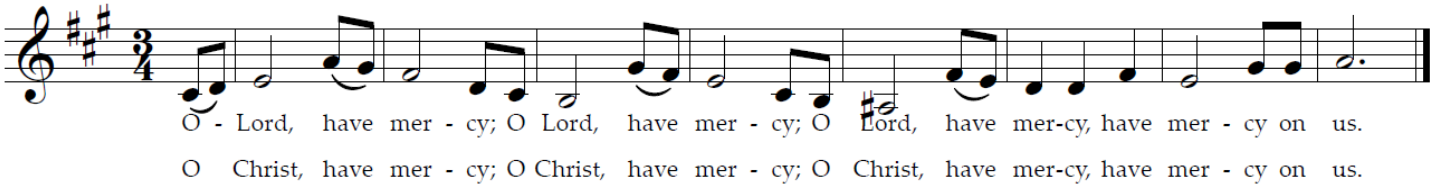
Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God who is always patient with us – we confess that we struggle to be patient with ourselves, with others, and with You. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to become a more patient people; a people who can wait for change with open hearts; a people who can kindly and longingly wait for Your Son's return.

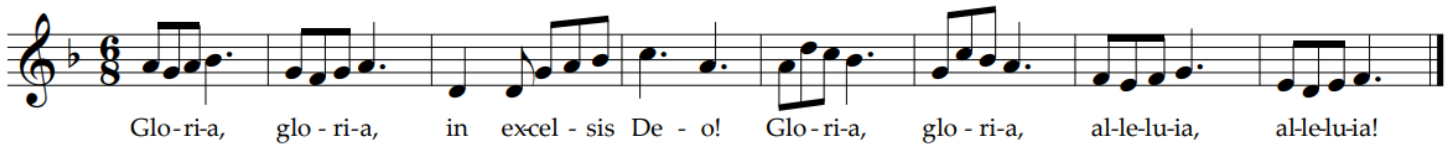
Silent Prayers of Confession and Petition

Kyrie Eleison (#578) O Lord, Have Mercy ORÉ PORIAJÚ VEREKÓ



Assurance of Pardon

***Alleluia (#583)** Glory to God GLORIA (Taizé)



***Welcome**

Announcements

***Advent Hymn #93** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO

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 Come, O Come, Emmanuel (9:00) VENI EMMANUEL
O Come, Redeemer of the Earth (11:10) Brian L. Hanson.

Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Lesson Matthew 1:1-17 page 783 of the pew Bible

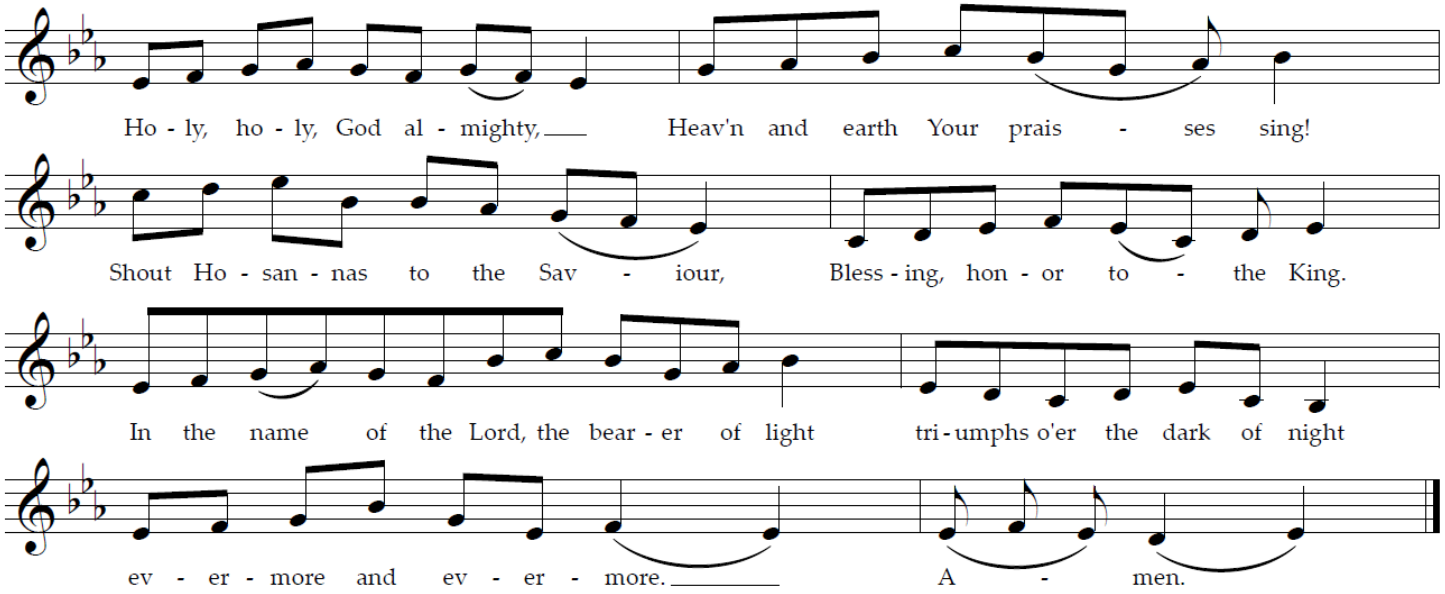
Sermon "This is Our Story" Rev. Joshua Garry

Our Response to God's Word

***Affirmation of Faith** *The Scots Confession: Chapter 4, The Incarnation of Jesus Christ* [3.06]

We believe that when the fullness of time came God sent His own Son, His eternal wisdom, the substance of His own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, the virgin Mary, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person. Amen.

***Sanctus** Holy, Holy, God Almighty DIVINUM MYSTERIUM



Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (9:00) Michael Praetorious

Creator of the Stars of Night (11:10)
CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM; arr. Joe Cox

***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**

God who gave and gives to us everything, we give back to You what we can this day. We give to You because You are the great miracle worker of all time. You are the one who created light amid the chaos of old night. You are the who brought about dry land from the abyssal waters of uncreation. So, we ask that you would take our gifts and make from them the bounties of heaven for others. Amen.

***Advent Hymn #82** Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus HYDRYDOL

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response (11:10)**	E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come	Paul Manz
***Postlude**	Toccata on "Saviour of the Nations Come"	Paul Manz

Serving in Ministry Today

Music	9:00	Camille Hinz, cello; Mark Kanitz, organ	
	11:10	Chamber Singers; Mark Kanitz, organ	
Childcare Ministry		Kari Murry, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster	
Ushers	9:00	Mike Shannon, Captain; Sheryl Shannon, Darold and Mimi Bauer, Doug Rathman	
	11:10	Neal Hubbard, Captain; Richard and Trudy Meyer, Barbara and Chet Thompson	
Greeters	9:00	North Door: Sue Meusey	Welcome Center: Mary Ann Pederson
	11:10	North Door: Owen and Karen Saunders	Welcome Center: Joe and Stephanie Weaver
Information Center	11:10	Judy Arms	
Coffee Host		Jane Burch	

Staff

Mimi Bauer	Financial Administrator	mimi@pcoc.us
Heather Berry	Christian Education Director	heather@pcoc.us
Christian Fritz	Communications Coordinator	communications@pcoc.us
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Kristi Treu, M.A. Music	Director of Music, Executive Director Vesper Concerts	kristi@pcoc.us
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Rev. Marshall Zieman, D. Min.	Pastor, Head of Staff	marshall@pcoc.us
Rev. Kirk Ryckman, D. Min.	Pastor Emeritus	

Announcements

For the week of November 29, 2026

PRESBYTERIAN
Church of the Cross

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, November 29
9:00 Worship
10:00 Coffee Fellowship and Sunday School
10:00 Advent Study
11:10 Worship
4:00 Pageant Rehearsal

Monday, November 30
10:00 Tai Chi

Tuesday, December 1
7:00 am Men's Bible Study
9:30 Staff Meeting
11:30 49ers at Wheatfields
1:00 Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study
1:30 Active Minds
3:00 Fellowship & Hospitality Committee
7:00 Vesper Concert

Wednesday, December 2
5:00 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
5:00 Personnel Committee Budget Meeting
5:30 Chamber Singers
6:30 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, December 3
9:30 Presbyterian Women Bible Study
10:00 Tai Chi
6:00 Bell Rehearsal
7:00 Digital Media Committee Meeting

Friday, December 4
9:30 Go Solo – Coffee & Conversation
6:30 Friday Night Gourmets

Saturday, December 5
9:00 B&G Set up for Advent Dinner
9:00 Pageant Rehearsal
9:00 GALS Annual Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 6
9:00 Worship
10:00 Coffee Fellowship and Sunday School
10:00 Advent Study
3:30 Photos around Christmas Tree
5:00 Advent Pageant and Dinner

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.

Flowers in the sanctuary are given by Joan Gayle and Jim Chapin in celebration of their 54th wedding anniversary.

Thanksgiving Offering.

Thank you for filling 120 Thanksgiving baskets this year for our neighbors in need! If you wish to contribute to the Thanksgiving offering, your donations will be used towards next year's baskets. The Mission Committee also was able to send a check for $2052.59 from the annual mission budget to support the Completely KIDS weekend food program. Your generosity is appreciated!





Hanging of the Greens A big thank you to everyone who came yesterday to assemble and decorate Christmas trees, hang wreaths and garlands, and enjoy treats and music.

Light the Advent Candles



Beginning today, families are invited to light the Advent candles during worship. You will read the Call to Worship as you light the Advent candle(s). Please sign up at the Information Desk in the Welcome Center. <u>There are just a few openings left!</u>

Nominate an Officer Today!



In the Presbyterian Church, we have the privilege and responsibility of nominating and electing our own congregational leaders. Now is the time to nominate a new class of Elders and Deacons. Your input is both appreciated and necessary! Forms are available online, in the Church Office, and at the Information Desk. The deadline is December 14. Questions? Contact a member of the church nominating committee: Larry Frederickson, Neal Hubbard, Tina Morgan, Anne Wattles, Don Metzger, and Earlene Uhrig.

December is headed our way!

49ERS on Tuesday, December 1

Our program for Tuesday, December 1 will be Amy Schindler, Archive Specialist, University of Nebraska Omaha Criss Library. The lunch location is Wheatfields, One Pacific Place, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone 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.

Active Minds in December

Active Minds will meet only Dec 1st and Dec 8th (the first two Tuesdays). Lower Level Great Room, 1:30- 4:00 pm. The games of Sequence and Mahjongg will be available. We will then take a holiday break and resume on January 12.

Go Solo - Coffee and Conversation on December 4…

GO SOLO: Coffee and Conversation is gathering on Friday, December 4, at 9:30 in the Hearth Room of the Welcome Center. Feel free to join us if you live alone, have a partner, or just want to meet other like-minded folks.

Change of Date for Friday Night Gourmet in December.

Friday Night Gourmet will be meeting December 4 at Cascio's (1620 So. 10th St). We will be ordering off their menu – Cocktails at 6:30 PM with dinner at 7:00 PM. Hosts are Irene and Bob Astleford Jr. – along with Arv and Judy Sundberg. Please sign-up by November 27 – the sheet will be at the information Desk or call Irene. Come join our fun-loving group. Everyone is welcome!

GALS Cookie & Candy Exchange Saturday, December 5

Celebrate the Christmas season with sweet treats and friends! Join us on Saturday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the Welcome Center for a fun morning of fellowship, games, and holiday treats! You can bring 4 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies or candies to exchange, an empty platter or container to assemble and take home your own assortment of treats, and a copy of your recipe to place beside your cookies or candies. Questions? Contact Anne Wattles or Staci Voss.

Next Sunday, December 6!

Adult Sunday School Class - Advent in Plain Sight

Through December 13, Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. led by Carol Sorensen. 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 lives. We'll find new meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' coming.

Christmas Photos in Front of the Christmas Tree



The Membership Committee will be taking free pictures of individuals and families in front of our beautiful Christmas tree in the Welcome Center before the Children's Pageant/Advent Dinner on December 6 from 3:30 – 5:00. Pictures will be mailed to you.

✓ Children's Christmas Pageant at 5:00

You don't want to miss this - mark your calendar now! Join us on Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m. for The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, presented by the children and youth of PCOC. The Advent Dinner will follow.

✓ Advent Dinner at 6 pm.



While the deadline has already passed for the Advent Dinner, for those of you who did sign up, please remember to join us for this year's always amazing meal, which will be on December 6th at 6 pm. Just a friendly reminder, this is easily one of our best-loved traditions at Presbyterian Church of the Cross. It is a festive and meaningful way to start the Christmas season and includes a meal cooked by our Deacons, lots of fun, fellowship, and the long-awaited Christmas pageant by our PCOC children. This time the menu will be: Roast Beef, roasted potatoes, green beans, salad/roll, and desserts. There will also be chicken tenders for the kids. After dinner, we will sing Christmas carols around the yule log with family and friends. There is no charge to attend this amazing event, but a free-will donation is always welcomed. To reserve a spot, the easiest way is to signup online or you can also stop by the Information Desk in the Welcome Center. If your family would like to reserve a complete table of eight, please note that on your reservation. Must have 8 people to reserve a table.

Presbyterian Men Needs Volunteers to Ring Bells for the Salvation Army

We are ringing bells for the Salvation Army's Christmas campaign on Saturday, December 12, at Bakers at 156th & Dodge. Each volunteer rings during 1-hour shifts from 10am to 4pm (4 persons north and south doors/shift). This is an easy, enjoyable opportunity to assist the Salvation Army in helping those among us in need during the Christmas season. Please sign-up at the Information Desk by Sunday, December 6. Contact Gary Fitch with questions.

Tables for Eight 2027 Winter Registration is Available through December 10

The deadline for new registrations or making a change for the Winter Session (January, February, March and April) is December 10, 2026. If you are currently in Tables for Eight as a "Regular", you will automatically be reassigned to a new group, and if you are a "Substitute" you will remain on the Sub List. However, if you choose not to participate or want to change your current status, contact Pam Otto. New "Regular" or "Substitutes, couples or singles are always welcome to join this fellowship opportunity. Questions and answers regarding "Tables for Eight" are listed on the Registration Form, which is available on the Website (www.churchofthecrossomaha.org.

Big Music Sunday is Coming!



Annual Christmas & Orchestra Music Sunday December 20
The choirs and professional chamber orchestra will present "Magnificat" by John Rutter, "O Nata Lux (O Light born of Light)" by Dave Gardner, as well as congregational Christmas hymns, on Sunday, December 20, at both services. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite neighbors, friends, and family members to join in celebrating the birth of Christ.

"Magnificat" is a Latin word meaning "magnifies" and is Mary's song of praise while visiting her cousin Elizabeth after learning she has been chosen to carry the Messiah, in Luke 1:46-56. John Rutter's version is a 40-minute, seven-movement work that exudes Mary's joy and gratefulness.

The Fellowship & Hospitality Committee invites everyone to bring treats to share during Coffee Fellowship on December 20. Please have items cut and ready to serve and please label if it contains either peanuts or tree nuts.

SHF Reunion Dinner Party
All young adults are invited to attend a dinner party on December 29 at 6 p.m. at the home of Carla & Jon Fritz. Take some time out of this busy holiday season to relax and reconnect with your fellow SHF alumni. Watch for invitations in the mail. RSVP by December 15 to Heather.

Ushers Needed
We are in need of 3 more ushers for the 7:00 Christmas Eve service. If interested please sign up online or call Mary Lynn Bennett. Thank you.