Fírst Presbyterían Church Hastíngs, Nebraska

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church Members of the Congregation, Ministers Guest Preacher: The Rev. Adam White Assisting: Pastor Don Canady Organist: Ashley Ehrich

December 27, 2015, 10:30 a.m. FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

"The first Sunday after Christmas often celebrates the feast of the Holy Family, and in the scripture lessons today we come to know that biblical families (like our own) knew challenge and difficulty. In *First Samuel*, the priest Eli is anguished over his sons and the prophecy of the undoing of his household because of their wickedness and disregard for the Lord. In the gospel reading from *Luke*, a precocious Jesus escapes from his parents after the Festival of Passover. He is eventually found in the Temple, where he has been astonishing all the teachers with his questions and understanding." – C.M.W.

GATHERING

*Indicates those who are able, please stand.

VOLUNTARY Ding! Dong! Merrily On High James Pethel (The voluntary is an opportunity to worship God: a time of prayer, meditation, reflection and expectation.)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! **Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!** Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

*HYMN No 143 (stanzas 1-3) Angels from the Realm of Glory REGENT SQUARE Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar; seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star: come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God: in Jesus Christ you called us to be a servant people, but we do not do what you command. We are often silent when we should speak, and useless when we could be useful. We are lazy servants, timid and heartless, who turn neighbors away from your love. Have mercy on us, O God. Though we do not deserve your care, forgive us and free us from sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

KYRIE - HYMN No. 578

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORE POIRIAJU VEREKO

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

No. 143 (stanza 4) Angels, from the Realms of Glory REGENT SQUARE All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son, evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king

*WELCOME and RITUAL of FRIENDSHIP

A MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

The congregation is invited to sing as the children come forward

Oh, come, little children, oh come, one and all To Bethlehem's stable, in Bethlehem's stall. And see with rejoicing this glorious sight, Our Father in heaven has sent us this night.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God in Trinity, eternal unity of perfect love: as your word is read and proclaimed, gather the nations to be one family, and draw us into your holy life through the birth of Emmanuel, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

FIRST READING – 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

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The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

GOSPEL READING – Luke 2:41-52

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The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O, Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Adam White

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from a Declaration of Faith

Jesus, the long expected Savior came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to his people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth. We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection, he brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

THE RESPONSE

CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MOMENT FOR MISSION - Healthy Beginnings

Barb Harrington

(All loose coins in the offering plate will go to PCUSA Hunger Fund.) **OFFERING**

Offertory

The Birthday of a King

James Southbridge

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

HYMN No. 144

In the Bleak Midwinter (stanza 4)

CRANHAM

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a Wiseman, I should do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

SENDING

*HYMN No 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing **MENDELSSOHN**

*CHARGE and BLESSING

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Keith Chapman *POSTLUDE

Next Sunday, January 3, 2016

Announcements:

The radio broadcast is in memory of Hal Lainson by the Lainson family.

Today's service may be seen on Channel 181 Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

For those living at Good Samaritan Village the service will be broadcast on Channel 3 on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

Greeters: Jim, Kathy, Laura, and Annie Duval

Ushers: Craig Balnicke, Andrew Barrows, Jim & Linda Donohue, Susie Graham, & George Howard,

captain.

Youth Ushers: Lucy Nielsen, Lydia Meyer

Acolytes: Allie Bauer, Lily Black

Nursery: Maggie, Lucy, and Erika Nielsen

NO WNL on December 30

NO **Sunday School** (for all ages) on December 27 and January 3

Wednesday morning Bible Study: The 7:00 a.m. Wednesday morning Bible study will NOT meet December 30. Meetings will resume in the Parlor on January 6, led by Don Canady. The group is currently studying Marcus Borg's book "Speaking Christian." Everyone is welcome!

Church office will be closed Friday, January 1.

Taking down the Greens will be Saturday, January 2 at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

Please continue in prayer for our **Pastor Nominating Committee** (PNC)!

Is your contact information correctly listed in the current directory? If not, call the church office or email Tarci (tarci@fpchasting.org) so that the **2016 Directory** is correct. Thanks!

Adult Field Trip: Fun! Ride in the church van to the Harvard UCC church to hear from Presbyterian missionaries about God's work being done in Moscow. Tuesday, January 5, Harvard UCC Church, 5:00 p.m., supper provided. Contact Kili to RSVP

This Week --- December 27 - January 2

Fri. Jan 1 OFFICE CLOSED

Sat, Jan 2 1:00 Taking down the Greens

Happy New Year!

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