

*First Presbyterian Church
621 North Lincoln Avenue
Hastings, Nebraska*

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church
Members of the Congregation, Ministers
Rev. Charles M. Webster, Transitional Pastor
Lay Reader:
Organist: Ashley Ehrich
August 16, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The first reading this morning opens with the death of David, then skips over the detailed account of how Solomon becomes king with the help of Bathsheba and Nathan, and by killing off his opponents. The focus of this week’s readings is on the gift of wisdom. Solomon prays for wisdom in a dream, and God grants his request. We are told that ‘Solomon loved the Lord,’ and the Lord makes promises to Solomon that are conditional, depending whether Solomon will ‘walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments.’ In the Old Testament, wisdom gives concrete and practical ways for people to live out deliberately their commitment to God. Incorporating wisdom into even the small dimensions of daily living provides a way of inviting God into the contours of each day. Wisdom is also often understood in the Christian tradition as representing the third person of the Holy Trinity – the divine breath that participated in creation still participates in the recreation and renewal of those who seek her. In the letter to the Ephesians the author wakes the followers of Jesus out of their complacency and conformity to the world. Believers are encouraged to live distinctive lives of faith and wisdom, in contrast to the world around them.”
– C.M.W.

GATHERING

**Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

VOLUNTARY

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(The voluntary is an opportunity to worship God, a time of prayer, meditation, reflection and expectation.)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 11

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in company with the congregation.

O God, your work is full of honor and majesty, and your righteousness endures forever.

The works of your hands are faithful and just; all your precepts are trustworthy.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.

Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign God, we are your children, but we have turned away from your wisdom and walked in our own ways. We have lived carelessly, foolishly and failed to understand your will. Purge us from evil and clear our minds that we may discern what is right and walk in your ways.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection)

KYRIE No. 578

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORE PROIAJU VEREKO

O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.

O Christ, have mercy; O Christ have mercy; O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE – No. 643 (stanza 3)

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

***All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given;
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.***

*WELCOME and RITUAL of FRIENDSHIP

A MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

The congregation is invited to sing as the children come forward

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.

Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Great God of steadfast love, we study your works and delight in your ways. Illumine our understanding by your Holy Spirit, that we may grow in your wisdom and discern between good and evil. Amen.

FIRST READING – *1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14*

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Wisdom from on High!
Rev. Charles M. Webster

THE RESPONSE

*HYMN No. 450

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Let us pray:*

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 sins, as we forgive
those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SENDING

*HYMN No. 643

Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

POSTLUDE

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Announcements:

The radio broadcast is provided by JoAnn and Les Seiler.

Today's service may be seen on Channel 181 Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., or 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.

The flowers are in memory of Anna and Milferd Swedlund by their children.

Ushers: Lynne Friedewald, Jim Harrenstein, captain, Chuck Shoemaker, Paul Nuss

Greeters: Jane and Chuck Bauer

Acolytes: Campbell Schukei

Nursery: Leah Ratzlaff

This Week ----- August 17 – August 22

Monday, August 17 11:00 Staff Meeting

Tuesday, August 18 1:00 Quilters
 6:45 Deacon's Meeting in Anderson Conference Room

Next Sunday, August 23rd.

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: *John 6:56-69*

Sermon: Hard to Swallow

Guest Preacher: The Rev. Chuck Traylor,
Transitional Executive, Central Nebraska Presbytery