

First Presbyterian Church Hastings, Nebraska

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church
Members of the Congregation, Ministers
Rev. Charles M. Webster, Transitional Pastor
Organist, Alleluia & Praise Bell Choir Director: Ashley Ehrich
Alleluia & Praise Choir Directors: Tim & Teresa Canady
Candle Lighters: Tom & Leah Ratzlaff,
McKain, Charlie, Peter
Lay Reader: Kay Georgiana

**November 29, 2015, 10:30 a.m.
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

“Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. *Advent* derives from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming.” The season proclaims the *comings* of the Christ – whose return in final victory we anticipate, whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, and who comes to us continually in word and spirit.” – C.M.W.

GATHERING

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

VOLUNTARY

“Fugue” in C Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

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

CHORAL INTROIT

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Jeremiah 33:14a, 15a

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,

when I will fulfill my promise:

I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David;

and he shall execute justice and righteousness.

Let us worship God.

***HYMN No. 82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

***LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE**

Isaiah 2:4

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming.

We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords
into plowshares,

**and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

B.C.W.

**God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule.
We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives,
ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse
the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us
wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ
comes to judge the world.**

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection)

KYRIE - HYMN No. 578

O Lord, Have Mercy

ORE POIRIAJU VEREKO

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

May the Lord guide your way, strengthen you in all holiness, and make you abound in
love for one another and for all.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

No. 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (stanza 1)

HYFRYDOL

***Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy
humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure,
unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.***

*WELCOME and RITUAL of FRIENDSHIP

A MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

Stephanie Brader

The congregation is invited to sing as the children come forward

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world.

Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in his sight.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

ANTHEM

"For the Colors of the Rainbow"

Nancy Raabe

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Psalm 25:1-10

**God our salvation, there is wisdom, peace, and joy for those who keep your Word.
By the power of your Holy Spirit, lead us in your truth and teach us to do your will;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING – *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

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The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING – *1 Thessalonians 2:13, 3:9-13*

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The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN No. 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1&2)

VENI EMMANUEL

*GOSPEL READING – *Luke 21:25-36*

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The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O, Christ.

*HYMN No. 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 5&6)

VENI EMMANUEL

SERMON

No Chicken Soup

Rev. Charles M. Webster

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from *The Scots Confession 1560*)

We confess and acknowledge one God alone, to whom alone we must cleave, whom alone we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom alone we put our trust. Who is eternal, infinite, immeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible; one in substance and yet distinct in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable providence for such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice have appointed, and to the manifestation of his own glory.

THE RESPONSE

CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Kili Wenburg

Adult Education and Spiritual Formation

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Offertory

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

James Pethel

*DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL

*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.
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*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. 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

ABERYSTWYTH

*CHARGE and BLESSING

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No. 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanza 7)* VENI EMMANUEL
*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife,
and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*POSTLUDE

"Reflection on an Ancient Plainsong"

Michael Ryan

Next Sunday, December 6

Second Sunday of Advent

Scripture: Luke 3:1-6

Sermon: Prepare the Way of the Lord

Holy Communion

Announcements:

The radio broadcast is in memory of Les & JoAnn 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.

Greeters: Gary & Carol Grummert

Ushers: Dennis Asmus, captain, Dave Fisher, Ed Lockwood, Phil Odom

Youth Ushers: Arich Fruehling, Josh Brooks

Acolytes: Campbell Schukei, Jack Howe

In honor of St. Andrew's Day (November 30) may we all affirm the opening words of the Scots Confession (1560) as our affirmation of faith this morning.

Stop in the church Parlor and let the bidding begin! Help support the Go and Serve trip.

Please help support those living in our community with severe mental illness by taking a tag from the Giving Tree in the Memorial Room. Gift(s) are to be returned by Sunday, December 20th. Sponsored by the Memorial Committee.

Greeters are still needed for regular worship service on December 20th. If you are willing and able, please contact the office.

Katie Kingsley will be performing a variety of Christmas songs this Wednesday beginning 11am at the PW Luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$5 and everyone is welcome!

Need a ride to Taize service? The next Taize service will be Thursday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. Call the church office if you'd like a ride.

Shop our Christmas Event, and give a gift that keeps on giving! Unique and handcrafted fair trade items made and produced by artisans and farmers from around the world will be available in our FPC Store **Hands Around the World** open Saturday, December 12, 9am – 1pm.

Save the date! Christmas caroling and soup supper. All voices needed: young, old, and in between! Sunday, December 13, 4:00 p.m.

Poinsettias may be purchased from the office in honor or memory of a loved one for \$10 each. Approximately twenty will be ordered and the remainder of the funds will be remitted to Salvation Army utility assistance program. Your purchase will help this continuous local need.

Tomorrow, November 30th, is the last day to turn in an application for the Chip Essex Memorial Scholarship. Applications are available in the church office, online at www.fpchastings.org, or by emailing Traci Boeve at tboeve@hastings.edu.

PLEDGES FOR 2016 ARE NOW BEING RECEIVED. Everyone's commitment is essential. Extra pledge cards are available on the table in the Memorial Room.

This Week ----- November 29 – December 5

- Sun, Nov 29 Bid Board Sunday in the Parlor –and- ACT Giving Tree
- Mon, Nov 30 11:15 Staff Meeting
- Tues, Dec 1 12:00 Usher Captains meet, brown bag luncheon, Anderson Conference
 1:00 Quilters
- Weds, Dec 2 7:00 Breakfast Bible Study in Fellowship Hall
 11:30 PW Luncheon in Fellowship Hall featuring Katie Kingsley
 4:00 Wednesday Night Live