

# First Presbyterian Church Hastings, Nebraska

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church  
Members of the Congregation, Ministers  
Rev. Charles M. Webster, Transitional Pastor  
Interim Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Robin R. Koozer  
Organist: Ashley Ehrich  
Candle Lighters: Kraig & Laura Lofquist  
Lexi, Brooke  
Lay Reader: Jessica Bauer

**December 06, 2015, 10:30 a.m.**  
**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

*“Today as we celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent, the scripture passages from Malachi and Luke both emphasize repentance. In Malachi, the Lord is likened to a refiner’s fire, purifying and transforming the people of Israel to ready them to encounter God. Luke’s gospel tells of John the Baptist preaching repentance in the wilderness and calling people to ‘prepare the way of the Lord.’” – C.M.W.*

## GATHERING

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

**VOLUNTARY**                                      *Prepare the Royal Highway*                                      **Robert A. Hobby**  
(The voluntary is an opportunity to worship God: a time of prayer, meditation, reflection and expectation.)

## CHORAL INTROIT

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**                                      *Luke 1:68-69, 78-79*  
Blessed be the Lord of Israel, for you have looked favorably upon your people.  
**You have raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of David.**  
By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.  
**To give light to those who sit in darkness and guide our feet into the way of peace.**  
Let us worship God.

**\*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**                                      *Isaiah 2:4; 11:6*  
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.**  
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
**the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.**  
**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

\*HYMN No. 106

*Prepare the Way, O Zion* BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we hear the call to repentance, but we struggle to respond.**

**You tell us to turn around, but we prefer our own ways.**

**Our sin leads us in other directions, away from you, away from life.**

**Look with mercy on us.**

**Clear a place within us that something new might be born, something that will return us to the way of Jesus Christ.**

*(Silence for personal prayer and reflection)*

KYRIE - HYMN No. 578

*O Lord, Have Mercy*

ORE POIRIAJU VEREKO

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

WINCHESTER NEW

*All praise to You, Eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore. And Holy Spirit evermore.*

\*WELCOME and RITUAL of FRIENDSHIP

**THE WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Almighty God, as your word is proclaimed in our midst, purify our hearts and minds, so that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as judge and savior, we may be ready to receive him, who is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

FIRST READING – *Malachi 3:1-4*

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The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN No. 96 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* (stanzas 1&2) WINCHESTER NEW

\*GOSPEL READING – *Luke 3:1-6*

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The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you O, Christ.**

\*HYMN No. 96 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* (stanzas 3&4) WINCHESTER NEW

SERMON

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Rev. Charles M. Webster

ANTHEM

*"Come, Emmanuel, Come"*

Chancel Choir

Cindy Berry

## THE EUCHARIST

### CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS

MINUTE FOR MISSION  
Horizon Recovery

Robin Craig

OFFERING *(All loose coins in the offering plate will go to PCUSA Hunger Fund.)*  
Offertory *Alleluia, Lord Most High!* Paul Taylor

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

#### THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God our thanks and praise...**

#### 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.**

#### BREAKING OF THE BREAD

#### COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*Please partake of the bread and cup when you are served.*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

#### SENDING

\*HYMN No. 373 *O Day of Peace* JERUSALEM

\*CHARGE and BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE *"Celtic Advent Blessing"* CRAIG CURRY  
Chancel Choir

\*POSTLUDE *"Bred dina vida vingar"* John Ferguson

**Next Sunday, December 12**  
***Third Sunday of Advent***  
**Music by the Children**  
**Scripture: *Philippians 4:4-7***  
**Sermon: *The Lord is Near***

## Announcements:

The radio broadcast is given in loving memory of David Northrop by his family.

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.

**Communion Servers:** Craig Balnicke, Sharon Brooks, Linda Cooke, Matt Fong, Kim Hermann, Chris Junker, Al Meyer, Erik Nielsen, Tim Redline, Dwayne Strasheim

**Greeters:** Chris and Kevin Junker, Eleanor Jorgenson

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

**Youth Ushers:** Julia Reimer, Lily Kingsley

**Acolytes:** Alex Ferguson, Selah Wenburg

**Nursery:** Kate Hemje

Stop in the church Parlor and let the bidding begin! Help support **Bid Board** for the youth **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 20<sup>th</sup>. Sponsored by the Mission Committee.

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

**Taize service this Thursday:** A brief service (no sermon) guiding participants through a contemplation on the gifts and challenges of *waiting*. Thurs., Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Chapel.

**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.

**All-church Christmas Caroling:** Everyone is invited! Sunday, Dec. 13, 4 p.m. *We need food donations for the soup supper following the caroling.* Contact Kili if you can help.

Join us for **Christmas Eve Services and Communion**, Thurs., Dec. 24. 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service and 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service – Communion (Taize service will not be held).

**Poinsettias** may be purchased from the 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.

### This Week ----- December 6 – December 12

**Sun, Dec 6** Bid Board Sunday in the Parlor –and- ACT Giving Tree  
1:00 Boy Scout Ceremony in Fellowship Hall

**Mon, Dec 7** 11:15 Staff Meeting  
12:00 Budget Committee Meeting in Anderson Conference  
12:30 P.E.O. Meeting in Library

**Tues, Dec 8** 1:00 Quilters  
5:30 Mission Committee Meeting in Kessler  
5:30 Trustee Meeting in Anderson Conference  
7:00 Christian Education Meeting

**Weds, Dec 9** 7:00 Breakfast Bible Study in Fellowship Hall  
4:00 Wednesday Night Live

**Thurs, Dec 10** 4:00 Personnel Meeting in Kessler  
7:00 Taize Service in Chapel

**Sat, Dec 12** 9-1 Hands Around the World open, Christmas sales in Memorial Room

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