

*First Presbyterian Church
Hastings, Nebraska*

Jesus Christ, Head of the Church
Members of the Congregation, Ministers
Rev. Charles M. Webster, Transitional Pastor
Organist: Ashley Ehrich
Alleluia & Praise Choir Directors: Tim & Teresa Canady
Calvin/Westminster Choir Director: Linda Johnson
Candle Lighters: Brady Rhodes & Susan Meeske,
Moses & Paxton Rhodes

**December 13, 2015, 10:30 a.m.
THIRD (GAUDETE) SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

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

VOLUNTARY *Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen* Johannes Brahms
(The voluntary is an opportunity to worship God: a time of prayer, meditation, reflection and expectation.)

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Zephaniah 3:14*
Sing aloud, O Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O
Jerusalem!
God is our strength and salvation and song!
God gathers us together for joy, to renew us in love. Let us rejoice with God in song!

*HYMN No 93 *Lift Up Your Hearts, Ye Mighty Gates* TRURO

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE *Isaiah 2:4; 11:6; 35:1*
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 anymore.
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.
**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and
blossom;**
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.
Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

HYMN No. 314 *Christ, Be Our Light (stanza 1)* CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT
*Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, we come to you, confessing that much of the anxiety and worry we experience is over matters of little importance. We ask that you help us to recognize moments of joy and to see the signs of your kingdom bursting forth amidst the chaos of our lives. Help us to live joyfully, so that others may come to be filled with joy that comes from knowing you.

(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

KYRIE - HYMN No. 578 *O Lord, Have Mercy* ORE POIRIAJU VEREKO

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

No. 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (stanza 3)* ST. LOUIS
How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

*WELCOME and RITUAL of FRIENDSHIP

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God for whom we watch and wait, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son: prepare us now to hear your word, and give us courage to speak the truth, to hunger for justice, and to suffer for the cause of right, with Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING – *Philippians 4:4-7*

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The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING – *Luke 3:7-18*

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The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O, Christ.

CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS

OFFERING (All loose coins in the offering plate will go to PCUSA Hunger Fund.)
Offertory Away in a Manger Keith Chapman

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

HYMN No. 145 What Child Is This (stanza 3) GREENSLEEVES
**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

“CHRISTMAS” Through a Window

Adapted from “CHRISTMAS” Store Window Play/Musical at
<http://www.halfahundredacrewood.com>

“Carol of the Bells”Mary Plock
Child 1Erika Nielsen
Child 2Grace Brader
“Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer”Alleluia Choir (Pre-K thru 2nd)
Child 3Campbell Schukei
Child 4Eva Ehrich
“O Christmas Tree”Calvin (6th- 8th) & Westminster Choirs (9th- 12th)
“Santa Clause is Coming to Town”Praise Choir (3rd thru 5th)
Child 5Selah Wenburg
Bible Reader 1Eric Brader
Child 6Alexandra Ferguson
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”Alleluia, Praise, Calvin & Westminster Choirs
MaryHannah Hafer
JosephAvery Essink
Child 7Laura Kate Oliver
Bible Reader 2Eleanor Oliver
“Away in a Manger”Alleluia Choir
Child 8Keira Erickson

Bible Reader 3 Maggie Nielsen

“The First Nowell” Praise Choir

Shepherds Pre-K, 1st, 2nd Grade boys

Bible Reader 4 Grace Canady

“We Three Kings” Calvin & Westminster Choirs

Wisemen Seth Schwarz, Moses Rhodes, Tethloach Duang

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” Praise, Calvin, & Westminster Choirs

Angels Pre-K, 1st, 2nd Grade girls

Bible Reader 5 Jennifer Boeve

“Silent Night” No. 122 Alleluia, Praise, Calvin, & Westminster Choirs;
Congregation please join after the first stanza.

Other

Program helpers 6th thru 12th grade students; Kelly Junker, Nancy Grams, Lois Hafer, Kris Horton, Jill Kramer, Jeni Howard

Accompanist Mary Plock

Set Design Margaret Marsh

Costuming Irina Erickson

Alleluia & Praise Choirs Directors Tim & Teresa Canady

Calvin & Westminster Choirs Director Linda Johnson

Creator/Director Stephanie Brader

*CHARGE and BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Keith Chapman

Next Sunday, December 20
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Scripture: Luke 1:39-55
Sermon: Sacred Conversations

Students

Pre-K

Stella Adam
Faith Brader
Preston Ferguson
Vivian Fong
Brooke Lofquist
Meredith Oliver
Gabriel Snell

Kindergarten

Lyla Adam
Ryan Barker
Olivia Canady
Delys Hall
Collin Hermes
Lexi Lofquist
Alexis Longshore
Peyton Mitchell
Reid Nunley
Charlie Ratzlaff
Keaton Redline
Caleb Schukei

1st Grade

Henry Black
Ruei Duang
Corle Hall
Riley Propp
Paige Redline
Paxton Rhodes

2nd Grade

Grace Brader
Adelaide Ehrich
Ashton Essink
McKain Ratzlaff
Norah Snell
Megan Welton
Hazel Zajack

3rd Grade

Eva Ehrich
Keira Erickson
Addyson Hermes
Laura Kate Oliver
Madalynn Redline
Moses Rhodes
Seth Schwarz

4th Grade

Tethloach Duang
Alexandra Ferguson
Tristan Propp
Jonah Snell
Selah Wenburg

5th Grade

Shannon Canady
Maddy Johnson
Eleanor Oliver
Campbell Schukei
Claire Schwarz

6th Grade

Tanner Bauer
Eric Brader
Raegan Bradley
Luke Brooks
Chudier Duang
Abbie Kerr
Nathan Kerr
Erika Nielsen

7th Grade

Nyagour Duang
Avery Essink
Hannah Hafer
Tyson Kerr

8th Grade

Allie Bauer
Lily Black
Michael Boeve
Grace Canady
Lyndie Eddleman
Cale Henderson
Chase Johnson
Nina Meyer
Jayden Propp
Grace Redinger
Carter Wenburg

9th Grade

Nyanhial Duang
Arich Fruehling
Sydney Kerr
Lily Kingsley
Lucy Nielsen

10th Grade

Jennifer Boeve
Joshua Brooks
Lauren Canady
Thomas Kerr
Maggie Nielsen
Julia Reimer
Erikka Rhodes

11th Grade

Noble Henderson
Courtney Junker
Emma Redinger

12th Grade

Morgan Karloff
Lydia Meyer
Sophia Pankratz
Samuel Reimer

Announcements:

The radio broadcast is given in honor of Charles and Melissa Webster.

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: Mike, Becky, Lydia & Nina Meyer

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

Youth Ushers: Morgan Karloff, Sam Reimer

Acolytes: Tethloach Duang, Tristan Propp

Nursery: Carol Grummert, Kate Hemje

In the Hospital: Dale Grams, V.A. in Grand Island

Beulah Mae Mapes died Tuesday, December 8, 2015. Services will be held at a later date. Memorials may be given to heartland Pet Connection and Start Over Rover.

This is the final Sunday (this year) to help support **Go & Serve** annual youth trip thru **Bid Board** in the parlor.

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

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.

Presbyterian Women will be gathering Wednesday, Dec. 16th for their monthly circle meetings, Circle I and Circle 2 at 9:30am at the hostess's residence, Circle III at 1:15pm in Fellowship Hall.

Poinsettias may be purchased in the office thru Wednesday, Dec 16th, 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 local need.

Chancel Choir will be performing a charity concert this Sat., Dec. 19th in the Hastings High School Auditorium at 3:30 pm. Hosted by Chorus of the Plains (a Barbershop Chorus in Hastings) proceeds from free-will donations benefit Kids Against Hunger.

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).

This Week ----- December 13 – December 19

Sun, Dec 13 Bid Board Sunday in the Parlor –and- ACT Giving Tree
4:00 Christmas Caroling

Mon, Dec 14 11:15 Staff Meeting

Tues, Dec 15 1:00 Quilters
6:45 Deacons Meeting

Weds, Dec 16 7:00 Breakfast Bible Study
9:30 PW Circle I, Hostess Susie Graham
9:30 PW Circle II, Hostess Katherine Sachtleben
1:15 PW Circle III, Hostesses Jane Pollak & Nancy Grams, in Fellowship Hall
4:00 Wednesday Night Live

Thurs, Dec 17 12:00 Budget Committee Meeting
7:00 Session Meeting

Sat, Dec 19 3:30 Chancel Choir Charity Concert in Hastings High School Auditorium