



## 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*

Page 250

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

GOSPEL READING – *Luke 2:41-52*

Page 56

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you O, Christ.**

## SERMON

The Rev. Adam White

\*HYMN No 113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

\*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

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

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

\*POSTLUDE

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Keith Chapman

Next Sunday, January 3, 2016

**10:30 Traditional Service with Communion  
The Rev. Dr. Lee Wigert preaching**

## **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@fpchastings.org](mailto:tarci@fpchastings.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!**

First Presbyterian Church  
621 N. Lincoln Avenue, Hastings, Nebraska 68901  
E-mail: [fpcc@fpchastings.org](mailto:fpcc@fpchastings.org)  
[www.fpchastings.org](http://www.fpchastings.org)  
(402) 462-5147