



INVOCATION

***Loving God, in this season of evergreens and ornaments, we sense the Spiritedness of life. We pray that, by your grace, we may develop faith that is ever-living, faith that is always more than ornamental. As we await the One born to be with us, enable us to grow in appreciation of our own humanity, made in your image. You have granted us wondrous capabilities for generosity and forgiveness, laughter, and love. God our Creator, thanks be to you. Amen.***

CALL TO CONFESSION

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

582

\*PEACE OF CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ATTENDANCE

A MOMENT WITH CHILDREN

Nancy Grams

*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.***

ANTHEM

arr. by Benjamin Harlan

““The Manger” (“Still, Still, Still” and “Away In a Manger”)

Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may your Spirit rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living.***

FIRST READING-Psalm 80:1-17, 17-19

SECOND READING-- Romans 1:1-7

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

GOSPEL READING- Matthew 1:18-25

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to You, O Christ.***

HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” 82

MESSAGE “The Birth Of Christ And The Birth Of Christmas”

CONCERNS and CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY “What Child Is This?” Arr. Brenda Austin  
Chancel Bells

\*DOXOLOGY “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” 606

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*HYMN “Joy To the World” 134

\*CHARGE and BLESSING

\*POSTLUDE “Hymn to Joy” Beethoven/arr. Travis

**Next Sunday, December 25, 2016  
Christmas Day  
10:30a.m. Worship Service  
Message by Pastor Don Canady**

## **Announcements:**

**The radio broadcast** airs on KICS 1550 AM and is given in memory of Wuanita and Don Butler by family and friends.

**Today's service will be broadcast on Channel 181** Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., and Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

**For those living at Good Samaritan Village, today's service will be broadcast on Channel 3** on Sunday at 12:00 noon and on Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.

**Ushers:** Andrew Barrows, Linda Donohue, Jim Donohue, Susie Graham, George Howard-Captain

**Greeters:** Frank and Kay Georgiana

**Acolytes:** Avery Essink, Nyaguor Duang

**Youth Ushers:** Jennifer Boeve, Lily Black

**Presbyterian Women Circle 3** will meet on December 21 in Fellowship Hall. Hostesses: Jane Pollak and Nancy Grams.

*"Thank you so much for investing in the future of our church by contributing to the Theological Education Fund (TEF). Your gift supports our Presbyterian seminaries in preparing future pastors, educators, chaplains, scholars, spiritual directors and other church leaders for lives of bold mission outreach: proclaiming the gospel and transforming lives through Spirit-filled ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. May God continue to sustain and grow your endeavors in service to the Risen Christ! With Gratitude, The Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty, Senior Director, Theological Education Funds Development"*

*"The Board of Directors, the volunteers and homeowners of the Hastings Area Habitat would like to **thank you** for your generous donation of (a combined) \$726.00. Your gift goes a long way in helping to fund the building of homes that provide safe, affordable housing to families in need. Thank you for your commitment to the Habitat philosophy of eliminating poverty and homelessness from the world by making decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Thank you so very much! Sincerely, Patty Kneale, Board Member & Fundraiser Chairman, Hastings Area Habitat for Humanity"*

### **Santa Shop Wants to Give YOU Five!**

A big "high five" goes out to all those who contributed items for yesterday's United Harvest "Santa Shop." Thanks to you, many children left the Annex with bright faces and happy hearts, eager--and able--to GIVE a Christmas gift to their parents or other caregivers.

A special thanks also goes out to Colleen Schukei, who came up with the idea and spent many hours sorting donations, "set decorating" the beautiful Santa Shop, and thinking through every last logistical detail. She was assisted by many volunteers but especially noted are Kaleena Fong, Susan Meeske, Brady Rhodes, the WNL elementary kids, Wendy Gwennap, Laurie Lofquist, Amy Hermes, Leah Ratzlaff, and Kili Wenburg.

**Mission committee members delivered** 71 diapers with 80 wipes to Catholic Social Services as part of the *Happy Nappy* program.

**Deacons delivered** 10 bags with a total of 72 items to the Hastings Food Pantry.

**Poinsettias** may be purchased in the church office thru Thursday, December 22, and picked up after 10:30a.m. Service on Sunday, December 25. A list of those memorialized and honored will be published in the Christmas Eve Service bulletins.

**Poinsettia Order Forms** are on the glass shelf in front of the office and in the announcement section online at [fpchastings.org](http://fpchastings.org).

The church pays \$7.50 each and donates the remaining \$7.50 each to Salvation Army's Utility Assistance Program, a program that assists many in need in our community. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

**Join us for Christmas Eve** candlelight worship on Saturday, December 24th at 5:30p.m. (family service) and/or 7:30p.m. (service with communion).

### **Christmas Joy Offering Received During Christmas Eve Services**

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

**Sunday School for all ages is cancelled** on December 25 and on January 1.

**Reminder to Committee Members:** Year-end reports will be due in January for the Annual Report.

**2017 Directory** is scheduled to be published the first week in January. Please email or call the office with any corrections to your listing that have not already been noted.

**Wednesday Morning Bible@Breakfast** is now on Christmas break. Study of *Living the Questions: The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity* will resume on Wednesday, January 4, at 7:00 a.m. in the Parlor. All are welcome to join in this lively group for interesting discussion over a shared meal.

Starting January 11, 2017, **Wednesday Night Live (WNL)** will begin at 4:00pm for all Pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

**Please pray for members of our PNC:** Jim Duval, Chad Murrell, Mike Karloff, Joan Shaw, Chris Junker, Pam Lay, and Jeni Howard.

### **This Week --- Dec 19 – Dec 24, 2016**

<b>Mon, Dec 19</b>	<b>11:00a.m.</b>	<b>Staff Meeting</b> in Pastor's Office
<b>Tue, Dec 20</b>	<b>1:00p.m.</b>	<b>Quilters</b> in the Annex
<b>Wed, Dec 21</b>	<b>1:15p.m.</b> <b>4:30p.m.</b> <b>6:45p.m.</b>	<b>PW Circle 3 Meeting</b> in Fellowship Hall <b>WNL!</b> <b>WNL Jr. High Christmas Party (No Sr. High WNL)</b>
<b>Sat, Dec 24</b>	<b>5:30p.m.</b> <b>7:30p.m.</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Family Service</b> <b>Christmas Eve Service with Communion</b>

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# Learning to Listen... Resting in Silence...



## Contemplative Prayer

**Forum** and **Retreat**

**“The closer one approaches to God, the simpler one becomes.”**

—St. Teresa of Avila

Contemplative prayer is the opening of mind and heart—our whole being  
—to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words, and emotions.

### Forum

**January 8, 2017**

Led by Dan Deffenbaugh, Hastings  
College professor of religion.

Dan will offer an introduction to  
contemplative prayer, perfect for those  
considering the March retreat, and also  
perfect for those interested in learning to  
listen to God and rest in silence.

Fellowship Hall, 9:15-10:15

### Retreat

**March 10-12, 2017**

Friday, 7:30 p.m. - Sunday after lunch  
St. Benedict Retreat Center, Schuyler, NE

This retreat, involving breath practice, is  
for beginners on the contemplative way,  
as well as for those who have some  
experience with it.

Led by Fr. Thomas Leitner, OSB,  
administrator of the St. Benedict Center.  
Fr. Thomas has practiced contemplative  
prayer for over 35 years.

\*\*The retreat fills quickly. FPC has a few  
spots reserved. Contact Kili to sign up.