

First Presbyterian Church Hastings, Nebraska

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ
Ministers: Members of the Church
Senior Pastor: Greg Allen-Pickett
Associate Pastor: Damen Heitmann
Liturgist and Scripture Reader: Kili Wenburg
Organist: Linda Vollweiler
Chancel Choir Director: Robin Koozer
Chancel Bells Director: Byron Jensen

**December 17, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
Third Sunday of Advent**

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

HYMN SING Call out your favorite hymn and we will sing a verse or two!

PRELUDE/CHORAL INTROIT “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” Chancel Choir

WELCOME

BELL INTROIT “Noel Nouvelet” Praise and Alleluia Bells

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Isaiah 61)

We will greatly rejoice in the LORD!

With our whole beings we shall exult in God!

For he has clothed us with the garments of salvation;

He has covered us with the robes of righteousness.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Come, let us worship and praise the God of righteousness and salvation!

*HYMN AND PROCESSION OF ADVENT BANNER

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (Verse 6)

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LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Schukei Family

This is the third Sunday in Advent. Today we light two purple candles and the pink candle. The first Sunday, we lit the candle of hope. On the second Sunday, we lit the candle of love.

Today, we light the candle of joy. During Advent, we pray that we may remember again God's gift of Jesus to the world and know the joy that gift brings to all people.

When we look at the third candle, we remember God's promise of joy. In the Scriptures, we read that Jesus brings light to the world. And where there is light, there is joy and peace and assurance.

When the world seems dark, we are reminded that Jesus brings light, and that brings us hope, love, and joy!

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Verse 3) 83
(As the family lights the candle on the Advent wreath, the congregation will sing this hymn.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us, yet we often make plans without listening to you and discover that our human agendas can drown out our ability to hear your will for us. We repent of these faults and turn to you in love. Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins, that our lives may magnify your holy name forever. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even in the midst of difficult times

God is with us bringing us hope, love, and joy!

Receive God's rich blessing of hope, love, and joy! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and loved!

Alleluia! Amen!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me” 582

*PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Greet others around you this morning by exchanging the Peace of Christ.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ATTENDANCE

(Please pass the Friendship Pads and sign in to let us know that you were here this morning.)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Lauren Canady

(As the children are coming forward, the congregation will sing “This Little Light of Mine.”)

ANTHEM

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”
Chancel Bells

Kevin McChesney

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Astonishing God, send your Holy Spirit upon us as we await the coming of your Son. Fill us with good things that we may conceive your reign on earth and glorify you according to your Word; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

1st SCRIPTURE READING – Luke 1:26-38

REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE

Kili Wenburg

2nd SCRIPTURE READING/SONG – Luke 1:39-56

Singing: Selah Wenburg, Lauren Canady, Erika Nielsen Drum: Sue Medsker-Nedderman

*This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.*

MESSAGE

“Revisiting Mary: Not So Meek and Mild”
Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

MUSICAL RESPONSE

“Still, Still, Still”

Praise and Alleluia Bells

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Adapted from an affirmation written by Rev. Nathan Nettleton)

We believe in God, creator and lover of the earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn — who emerges as the herald of hope; God's laughter in the face of despair. He broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice, hope, and joy will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the Body of Christ – the Church, and empowers us to confront and transform injustices and work for peace and reconciliation in our lives and in the world.

We believe in the coming reign of God. For the coming of that day, on this day we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

- OFFERING *(All loose coins in the offering plate will go to PC(USA) Hunger Fund.)*
- OFFERTORY “Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child” Kevin McChesney
 Calvin/Westminster Bells
- *DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” 606
- *PRAYER OF DEDICATION
 Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless these gifts that we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace; in Christ’s name. Amen.
- THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.
- *HYMN “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” 99
- *CHARGE and BLESSING
- *CHORAL RESPONSE
- *POSTLUDE “Festive Voluntary” Robert Lau

Come worship with us next week for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve and invite your friends and family!

**Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
 (No 8:30am service and no Sunday School)
 10:30am Service of Lessons and Carols**

**Sunday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services:
 3:30pm Christmas Eve Service at College View Retirement Home
 5:30pm Family Christmas Eve Service
 7:30pm Christmas Eve Service with Communion
 11:00pm Contemplative Christmas Eve Service in the Chapel**

Announcements

The radio broadcast airs during the 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM and is given in memory of Waunita 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 2:00 p.m.

A copy of any Sunday service is available on DVD disc upon request at no charge. Contact Tarci at 402-462-5147 or tarci@fpchastings.org.

Need a ride to church on Sundays? Request a ride by calling Deacon Moderator Jeanne Hastings at 402-462-8460 or the church office at 402-462-5147.

Greeters: Don & Marie Rasmussen, Anne Bohlke

Acolytes: Campbell Schukei, Claire Schwarz

Ushers (Team #4): Susie Graham, George Howard-Captain, Rich & Carolyn McKenzie, Dan & Vera Zabloudil

Nursery: Kim Bogan, Leah Ratzlaff

December Offerings to Crossroads Center Rescue Mission will be collected throughout the month.

Prayers for: Arnie Boehler, Judy Brown, Lauren Canady, Karen Doerr/Mrs. Gilmore, Celia (& Wayne) Ganow, Erlene Gessford, Jan Ham, Irmise (& Elmer) Heeren, Pat Kleiber, Richard & Wanda Langer, Larry Nowka, Karla Reese, Elaine & son Jonathan Specht, Audrey Watson, Wilson, Jenni and Ben Welsch and families.



Poinsettias may be purchased now through Weds. Dec. 20 in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$15 each. Order forms may be found on the glass shelf in front of the church office or on the welcome stand in the Memorial Room and may be returned to the church office with checks payable to FPC.

Love singing Christmas hymns? Then join us at 10:15 each Sunday morning of Advent! For the 15 minutes prior to worship each Sunday in December, we'll take turns calling out favorite hymns and then singing a verse or two of each.



Don't miss this special church family event!!

Christmas Caroling: TODAY!

Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m., and then we'll carpool to the Kensington, College View, and Perkins, enjoying fellowship and spreading Christmas cheer.

All ages are welcome; all voices appreciated!

"Anyone who has a student who sings in Praise, Alleluia or Pre-School choirs... **You are all invited (youth singers and parents alike) to provide the anthem for the 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.** It is not necessary to prepare or even have a tremendous singing voice. All you need to do is come to the choir room at 5:00 p.m. and we will run through our anthem. It will be a traditional Christmas Carol that you already know. I promise. It would be wonderful to fill the choir loft with families at the Christmas Eve Family Service. (It's also the best seat in the house!) So, please, come and join us. Thank you," -- *Tim & Teresa Canady*, Praise & Alleluia Choir Directors

It's time for WRAPAPALOOZA!

Ladies of the church: Bring your Christmas gifts and wrapping supplies, and together we'll work, wrap, talk, and enjoy some Christmas goodies! *Thursday, December 21, 12-1, Parlor*

Sunday 12/24 (4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve):

NO Sunday School or 8:30am Service
10:15am Hymn Sing in the Sanctuary
10:30am Service of Lessons and Carols
3:30pm Christmas Eve Service at College View Retirement Community
5:30pm Family Christmas Eve Service (with candle light Silent Night)
7:30pm Communion Christmas Eve Service (with candle light Silent Night)
11:00pm Contemplative Christmas Eve Service in the Chapel

Complimentary Advent devotional booklets available in the Memorial Room

With the hustle and bustle of the Advent season, it can be very helpful to have a spiritual guide to bring focus and meaning to this centrally important season of the Christian calendar. The Advent devotionals we had last year were enjoyed by many, and they are again being made available by "Water from Rock" ministry. The 2017 booklets, entitled Our Humble God, are provided to you and to our church free of charge, but if you find value in what they add to your Christmas preparations, you may want to consider using the enclosed envelope to send a donation to "Water from Rock" ministry.

**Presbyterian Women Meet in December**

Dec. 20 - 9:30 a.m. Circle 2 in the church library; Laurie Johnson is the hostess
1:15 p.m. Circle 3 in the church library; Nancy Grams and Marie Rasmussen are hostesses

This Week --- Dec. 18 – Dec. 23, 2017

Mon, Dec. 18	7:00p-9:00p	Boy Scouts Troop 200 in Basement Scout Room
Tue, Dec. 19	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting in Pastor's Office
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study in Parlor
	1:00p	Quilters Meet in Annex
	6:45p-7:45p	Deacon's Meet in Anderson Conference Room
Wed, Dec. 20	7:00a-8:00a	Bible@Breakfast in Parlor
	9:30a-10:30a	PW Circle 2 Meets in Library
	1:15p-2:15p	PW Circle 3 Meets in Library
	4:00p-6:00p	WNL Activities (Pre-K thru 5 th Grades)
	6:00p-7:00p	Session Meets in Anderson Conference Room
	6:00p-6:45p	WNL Family Time Meal (All Ages Welcome!)
	6:30p-8:30p	Wood Carvers in Basement
	6:45p-7:15p	Chancel Choir Practice

NO Cal/West Choir Practice (6th thru 12th Grades) – Due to Semester Tests

NO WNL Bible Study/Fellowship Jr./Sr. High (6th thru 8th Grades) - Due to Semester Tests

	7:30p-8:15p	Chancel Bells Practice
Thu, Dec. 21	12:00p-1:00p	Mariners Lunch Group in Kessler
	6:30p-7:30p	Spanish Class in NW Classroom, Annex
Fri, Dec. 22	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies in Youth Room-Basement

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