

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

December 24, 2017, 10:30 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent – Service of Lessons and Carols

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

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

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ATTENDANCE

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

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Romans 16)

Let us come to worship God who strengthens us according to the Gospel;

Let us worship God who has shown us love through the prophetic writings;

Let us come to worship our wise God, through Jesus Christ;

To God be the glory forever! Come, let us worship God!

*HYMN AND PROCESSION OF ADVENT BANNER

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” (Verse 7)

88

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Nielsen Family

This is the fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve. Today, we light all four candles. The first Sunday, we lit the candle of hope. On the second Sunday, we lit the candle of love. On the third Sunday, we lit the candle of joy.

Today, we light the candle of peace. Our world is not always a peaceful world. Wars are being fought around the world. The earth is being desecrated. Conflicts flare up between people. Families fight. But God promises peace. During Advent, we pray that all people will seek God's peace.

When we look at the fourth candle, we remember God's promise of peace. We recall the words of Jesus in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."

As we light this final advent candle and approach the birth of Christ, let us remember that God's intention is a place of peace where swords will be beaten into plows and love replaces hate.

May we all embody the Advent values of hope, love, joy and peace in this season and in our lives.

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (Verse 4) 83
(As the family lights the candle on the Advent wreath, the congregation will sing this hymn.)

READING 1: Luke 26-35 – Madalynn, Paige and Keaton Redline
(The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce that she will give birth to Baby Jesus.)

READING 2: Matthew 1:19-24 – Eleanor, Laura Kate and Meredith Oliver
(The angel Gabriel visits Joseph to announce that Mary will give birth to Baby Jesus.)

HYMN 88: “To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary” (verses 1-2, 4 & 6)

1 To a maid engaged to Joseph, The angel Gabriel came.

“Fear not,” the angel told her, “I come to bring good news,
Good news I come to tell you, Good news, I say, good news.

2 “For you are highly favored, By God, the Lord of all,
Who, even now, is with you. You are on earth most blest,
You are most blest, most blessed, God chose you; you are blest!”

4 “Fear not, for God is with you, And you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus, God’s offspring from on high.

And He shall reign forever, Forever reign on high.”

6 As Mary heard the angel, She wondered at his words.

“Behold, I am your handmaid,” She said unto her God.

“So be it; I am ready According to your Word.”

READING 3: Luke 2:1-4 – Avery Essink
(Announcement of the census that sends Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem)

*HYMN 121: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (verse 1 & 2)

1 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting light;

The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep, Their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars together, Proclaim the holy birth!

And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth!

READING 4: Luke 2:6-7 – Charlie Ratzlaff
(Baby Jesus is born in a manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes.)

HYMN 115: “Away in a Manger” (verses 1 & 2)

1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

READING 5: Luke 2:8 – Esther Allen-Pickett
(The shepherds are introduced.)

HYMN 118: “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” (verse 1)
While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around.

READING 6: Luke 2:9-12 – Campbell and Caleb Schukei
(The angel appears to the shepherds and invites them to find the Christ child.)

HYMN 147: “The First Nowell” (verse 1)
The first Nowell the angel did say, Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep, On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

READING 7: Luke 2:13-14 – McKain Ratzlaff
(The angels sing glory to God!)

*HYMN 113: “Angels We Have Heard on High”
1 Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo.
2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song? Refrain.
3 Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain.

*HYMN 119: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (verses 1 & 3)
1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

READING 8: Luke 2:15-18 – Eric and Grace Brader
(The shepherds go to Bethlehem and meet Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus.)

HYMN 53: “What Child is This” (verses 1 & 3)
1 What Child is this who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!
3 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.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

READING 9: Matthew 2:1-12

(The wise men visit Jesus, bring him gifts, and return home.)

HYMN 151: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (verse 1)

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy perfect light!

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

OFFERTORY "The Little Drummer Boy" Pentatonix

*DOXOLOGY "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (verses 1 & 4) 133

*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.

*CLOSING HYMN "Joy to the World!" 134

*CHARGE and BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

**Come worship with us next week for the First Sunday After Christmas!
Sunday, December 31
(No 8:30am service and no Sunday School)
10:30am Service with special music – Pastor Damen Preaching**

Announcements

The radio broadcast airs during the 10:30 a.m. service on KICS 1550 AM and is given in memory of Hal Lainson by the Lainson family.

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: Justin & Steph Brader

Acolytes: Tethloach Duang, Tristan Propp

Ushers: Susie Graham, Brian Johnson, Rich & Carolyn McKenzie

Nursery: Kim Bogan, Erika Nielsen

Ky Michael Juilfs, born Jan. 15, 2017, was baptized Dec. 10, 2017 at the First Presbyterian Church in Nebraska City, NE by Rev. Bill Nottage-Tacey. Parents are Kelly & Tyler Juilfs; Grandparents are Marcia & Michael Hogan.

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



"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

Christmas Joy Offering

"Advent asks us to open our hearts to God's love and grace, and you and your congregation have long responded faithfully to that call. By sharing God's love through the Christmas Joy Offering with PC(USA) church workers and racial ethnic students in need, you embody what it means to be a connectional church. We ask that you again receive the CJO this Advent season, as the ministries it supports need your help. Wishing you every blessing this Advent and Christmas," -- The Reverend Peter C.S. Sime, Vice President, Assistance, Funds Development & CREDO

Communion: Familiar Ritual, Mysterious Sacrament

While the familiar motions of this monthly ritual provide comfort and spiritual sustenance, how does communion "work"? This class will provide information about the theology behind the sacrament, the meaning informing various modes of serving, the specific emphases unique to different denominations, and the "rules" defining who can serve and who can receive and so on. Additionally, there will be opportunity for discussion and sharing of freshly-baked bread! Class led by Pastors Greg and Damen Sunday, January 7.

Bible Study Christmas break

Neither the Tuesday noon nor the Wednesday morning Bible study groups will meet this week. Both will resume the first week of January.

"Happy: What it is and How to Find it"

This is the title of the new Heirs Apparent curriculum, which will begin January 7. No matter how hard we try, happiness can seem elusive. Even as we reach our goals, we set new ones, making happiness always out of reach, but this study helps you discover that contentment isn't dependent on the "things" of life. Class meets in Anderson Conference Room at 9:15 on Sunday mornings, under the leadership of Curtis Reimer.

Not able to serve on a committee but willing to help out at church??

Please consider adding your name to a new list being created: the "Ready to Serve" list. Individuals on this list may be called upon 2-4 times per year to donate food or time for special events, such as bringing treats for Kick-Off Sunday, helping make posters for a parade float, cleaning up after a church potluck, and so on. If your name is on the list and you are called to help with a particular event, you always have the option of saying no if it doesn't work with your schedule. The creation of this list just helps the church to know who is willing to consider helping out when more hands are needed.

Adding your name to the "Ready to Serve" list requires very little commitment but provides a huge service to the church. Thank you for your consideration!!

Thank you, Matt Fong, for taking such good care of the poinsettias thru Advent! Your service is very much appreciated!

If you purchased a poinsettia (or two or three) feel free to take yours at any time. Salvation Army's Utility Assistance Program will be mailed FPC's donation check after the first of the year - the total of which will be listed in a January Home Page. Thank you for your support!

Thank you, Dave and Nytha Glass, for donating the beautiful, live Christmas tree in the Memorial Room!

"Thank you Jeanne and deacons for the beautiful poinsettia – it means a lot! It also means a lot that the manger is displayed once again in memory of Bob!" -- Darlene Howard

A copy of Angels Aware from December 10th service is available on DVD or Blue-Ray upon request at no charge. Contact Roger or Cheryl Schukei at 402-462-9282 or schukei@kdsi.net.



**American
Red Cross**

The next **Red Cross Blood Drive** in Fellowship Hall will be on Wednesday, January 3rd from 12 noon to 6 p.m. For more information, or to make an appointment, contact Erica Brooks at ericalynn128@gmail.com or 402-469-9285.

This Week --- Dec. 25 – Dec. 30, 2017

OFFICE CLOSED

Pooh Corner will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 but open regular hours, so the **church building** will be open Dec. 26 thru Dec. 29. The **church office** will be closed Dec. 25 thru Jan. 1, to reopen Jan. 2.

Pastoral care needs may be directed to Don Canady @ 402-587-0312.

Buildings & grounds needs may be directed to our new Facilities Manager Tony Calhoun @ 402-469-5677.

The next Home Page will be mailed & issued electronically no later than Weds, Jan. 3.

January Birthday and Anniversary lists are available on the welcome stand in the Memorial Room.

Pledge fulfillments & other donations may be included with any of the Sunday service collection or placed in my 'Finance' mailbox in the common office area. Feel free to include a note with details as to how you would like your funds posted.

Have a very Merry Christmas!

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