

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE

Pastor Damen

Today we celebrate Christmas Eve and the birth of the Christ Child! We light all of the candles on the advent wreath. First, we lit the candle of hope. Next, we lit the candle of peace. Then, we lit the candle of joy. Finally, we lit the candle of love.

Tonight, we light the center candle, which represents Jesus Christ. When we light this candle, we remember Jesus' birth. Our waiting has ended!

When we look at the center candle, we remember that God sent Jesus to give hope, peace, joy, and love to all people. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her not to be afraid, for she would bear the Christ child. We are people of hope and not of fear.

Outside of Bethlehem, the shepherds saw a great light and heard the voices of angels telling them not to be afraid, for they would meet the Christ child. They traveled to the manger, saw the baby Jesus, and found peace.

Far away from Bethlehem, wise men saw a star in the sky. They followed the star and were filled with joy when they found Jesus.

Tonight, in this place, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, full of love for our families and our community, and give thanks that God came to earth for us!

*HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

133

(pre-recorded on 12/24/19, 5:30pm Service with Family Choir)

1. O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him,
Born the King of Angels! [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels;
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
All glory in the highest! [Refrain]

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER (Isaiah 9)

God of light and love, shine upon us this Christmas Eve and in the year ahead. Guide us out of darkness and into your joyous light. As we listen to this familiar story, may it enliven and renew our faith in you. May our lives reflect your glorious love, that others may see your Christmas Spirit in us, each and every day of our lives. Amen.

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

PASSING THE PEACE (*Greet one another by honking your horns to share the peace of Christ.*)
The Peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

READING 1 Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 1:19-24

The angel Gabriel visits Mary and Joseph to announce that Mary will give birth to Baby Jesus.

HYMN “Joy to the World” (vs. 1, 2 & 4) 134
(*pre-recorded on 12/24/19, 7:30pm Service with Family Choir*)

1 Joy to the world, The Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.	Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, Rocks, hills, and plains	4 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of his righteousness And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love

READING 2 Luke 2:1-7

Announcement of the census that sends Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem; Jesus is born in a manger.

ANTHEM “Away in a Manger” 115
(*pre-recorded on 12/24/19, 7:30pm Service with Family Choir*)

1 Away in a manger, No crib for his bed, The little Lord Jesus Laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.	No crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus; Look down from the sky, And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
2 The cattle are lowing; The poor baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus,	3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

READING 3 Luke 2:8-20

The angel appears to the shepherds and invites them to find baby Jesus. Angels sing glory to God!
The shepherds go to Bethlehem and meet Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.
They return praising God for all they have heard and seen!

MESSAGE “Gifts from the Heart” Pastor Greg
(*The message includes the song “The Little Drummer Boy”
played by Damen and Hannah Jensen-Heitmann*)

HYMN “The First Nowell” (vs. 1 & 2) 147
(*pre-recorded on 12/24/19, 5:30pm Service with Family Choir*)

1 The first Nowell the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, In fields where they lay	Keeping their sheep, On a cold winter’s night that was so deep. [Refrain]
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(Verses cont. on next pg.)

2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
[Refrain]

Refrain:
Nowell, Nowell,
Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (vs. 1 & 3)

119

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 son 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!”

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.

PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

During the singing of Silent Night, you are invited to turn on your battery-operated candle as you sing. Bask in the warm glow of the Light of Christ. When we get to the last verse, if you feel comfortable, lower your car windows and hold your candle up outside your car as we sing the final verse.

HYMN

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

122

(pre-recorded on 12/24/19, 7:30pm Service with Family Choir – Deb Johnson, Flute)

1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
‘round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born!”

3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, Love’s pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

4 Silent night, Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born.

CHARGE and BLESSING

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, through-out the heavens
There shone a holy light.
[Refrain]

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.
[Refrain]

3 Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.
[Refrain]

Take your candle home with you as a reminder to carry the light of Christ into the world on Christmas Eve and every day!

POSTLUDE

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

arr. Simone

Linda Vollweiler, Organ

(The postlude serves as a musical blessing for worshipers as they transition out into the world.)

This service would not have been possible without the generosity of Hastings College. We thank them for the use of the parking lot and their technical support.

This service also would not have been possible without an incredible volunteer tech crew, which includes Bruce Batterson, Ross Struss, and Erik Nielsen.

We want to thank our Congregational Life Committee for organizing the parking lot and providing volunteers to hand out bulletins and candles.

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY &
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!

10:30 am Stay-at-Home worship

Broadcast live on Facebook at www.facebook.com/fpchastings and on KICS 1550 AM
(Please note, you do not need a Facebook account to view the service.)

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
Sharing the love of Christ from the heart of Hastings since 1873

Head of Church: Jesus Christ

Senior Pastor: Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

Director of Children & Family

Ministries: Stephanie Brader

Organist and Music Coordinator: Linda Vollweiler

Calvin/Westminster Choir Director: Linda Johnson

Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors: Tim and Teresa Canady

Praise/Alleluia Bells Choir Director: Dr. Susan Oliver

Accompanist: Mary Plock

Scholar in Residence: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh

Ministers: Members of the Church

Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann

Parish Associate: Kili Wenburg

Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Robin Koozer

Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster

Bells Director: Dr. Byron Jensen

Church Office Administrator: Jean Matheny

Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun

Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey

Poinsettias Given By

Jan Bolliger

The Northrop Family

*Steve & Lesa Cropley
Hermes, Bliss, Overmiller, and
Olsen Families*

The Hafer family

Jill Kramer

Alice Throckmorton and family

Shoemaker/Friedewald Family

In Memory of

Don & Lucille McHargue

Marcia Meshbesh

Michele Northrop;

Frank Northrop;

David Northrop

Loved Ones

Hal Lainson



Our parents and grandparents:

Mr. & Mrs. Merle Hafer and

Mr. & Mrs. Boyd Lemaster

Church Family,

*Loved ones of FPC members whose earthly
lives ended in 2020*

Carl Throckmorton

Lyn Throckmorton

Alfred & Dorothy Friedewald;

Ome & Honor Shoemaker

Poinsettias Given By

*Hermes, Bliss, Overmiller, and
Olsen Families*

In Honor Of

Gretchen Lainson



A note of welcome and invitation from Pastor Greg and the First Presbyterian Church family:

Thank you for coming to worship with the First Presbyterian Church family on Christmas Eve this year at our first (and perhaps last) drive-in Christmas Eve service! Whether you worship with us every week, a few times a year, or this is your very first time, we are *glad that you could join us this evening* as we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

It has been a strange year. If we turn on the television or open the newspaper, we can be overwhelmed by messages of fear, despair, and anger. We seek to be a counter-cultural community of *love, hope, and hospitality*. We invite you to learn more and get involved in our family of faith so that you can help us to share these values in our community and our world. The love, hope, and hospitality we seek to proclaim is firmly grounded in our belief in Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate this day.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our church remains actively engaged in *local ministry and mission*, including the United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry, Open Table, and by supporting of many other local organizations including Habitat for Humanity, SASA Crisis Center, Revive Ministries, Crossroads Rescue Mission, and more. Every summer, we offer Vacation Bible Schools for the whole community, including one for children with special needs. We had to cancel last summer but hope to resume this year! All of these activities and ministries provide volunteer opportunities for you to share the love of Christ and see where God is at work in Hastings!

We also participate in *national and global mission* through Go and Serve youth mission trips every year. These trips provide more opportunities for individuals to share the love of Christ and learn where God is at work around the world!

We invite you to join us for *Sunday morning worship*. Currently, we are doing "Stay-at-Home" worship that is streamed on Facebook Live and also broadcast on KICS 1550 AM every Sunday morning at 10:30am. We hope to return to in-person worship this spring when it is safe to do so.

Our church seeks to engage our hearts and our minds, so we also offer amazing *learning opportunities*. Currently our PreK-5th grade Sunday School is offered remotely. We send packets of information and craft materials home each month and record a video each week available on our church's YouTube channel. We also offer remote learning opportunities for adults on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. When it is safe, we will resume our "Wednesday Night Live" program for 5 to 12-year olds from 4-6:45pm for bible study, rec time, music and dinner. We also have an active youth group for 6th to 12th graders from 7:30-8:15pm every Wednesday night that will resume when it is safe.

Do you like to make *music*? When things return to normal, we invite you to come be part of our music programs, which include an adult vocal choir and adult handbell Choir. We also have a youth vocal choir, youth handbell choir, children's vocal choir, and children's handbell choir. If you aren't musical yourself, just come to worship and enjoy the music that is shared by all of these incredible groups; we love to make a joyful noise to God through our music!

At First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, we are a *community of hope* where you will always hear a message of hope proclaimed. Come *engage your hearts, hands, and minds* and help us *share the love of Christ* in Hastings and beyond. Reach out to any of our staff or volunteers to ask about how to get involved, or you can email Pastor Greg at greg@fpchastings.org

In Christ,



LIFE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Welcoming All - Living Love - Transforming Lives

FACEBOOK - FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HASTINGS, NE



WORSHIP

We seek to transform ourselves and our communities by encountering the divine. Through contemplative and traditional worship, our eyes are opened and hearts expanded.

MISSION

The good news is given life through service to others. United Harvest, Mission Co-Workers, Go & Serve, Coat Drive, Open Table, and Communion Offerings are just a few of the ways we seek to live love.



ENRICHMENT

Spiritual growth is encouraged for young and old alike. Through traditional classes, bible studies, spiritual retreats, and faith excursions the seed of faith continues to grow.

FELLOWSHIP

No pilgrim should journey alone, at least not for long. A variety of special-interest and fellowship groups are available for those looking to make connections.



MUSIC MINISTRY

Our lives and worship are enriched by the blessing of youth choirs and bells, a chancel choir, and a handbell choir, as well as a variety of special musicians.

www.fpchastings.org