



# Advent Week Three: Peace

December 12, 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

PRELUDE

“Christmas Medley”

arr. Ricky Lambardo

Deb Johnson and Sarah Wolf, flutes

*(The prelude is an opportunity to worship God, a time of prayer, meditation, and reflection.)*

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

*Heirs Apparent Bible Study Family*

This is the third Sunday in Advent. Today, we light three candles. The first is the candle of Love, the second is the candle of Joy, and the third is the candle of Peace!

***Advent is a time of waiting and hoping. We anticipate the coming Christ and the peace he brings!***

We await the kingdom of God where hatred, anger, and violence are no more,  
***Where peace becomes a way of life.***

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid. The calf and the lion will feed together.

***Violence in our communities will cease, violence between nations will cease. People will work together in harmony, seeking solutions that benefit all.***

And a little child shall lead them,

***The Church, the body of Christ, will lead this movement for peace.***

Today we light the candle of peace as a prayer and a reminder of God’s vision for the world.

***And as this light burns and grows, we will wait eagerly, longing for the birth of a child and for the peace only love can bring. May peace light up the world. Come, love! Come, joy! Come, let us worship the Prince of Peace!***

\*OPENING HYMN “Candles Glowing, Promise Showing”  
(To the tune of “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”)

Candles glowing, promise showing – holy peace so still and bright.  
New tomorrow, free from sorrow – living in Christ’s holy light.  
Shunning violence, loving neighbor, joy of silence, trust our savior –  
Living in Christ’s holy light! Living in Christ’s holy light!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Prince of Peace, whose birth we anticipate in this season, we acknowledge we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gifts of grace and love that you gave freely. Instead of following your call to be peacemakers, we have wallowed in conflict. We have ignored your teachings and chosen apathy and indifference in their place. We have rebuked your commandment to love others, and instead we push people away.***

***Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin, free us from our captivity, free us to a life lived in peace through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

SILENT CONFESSION & QUESTION FOR CONTEMPLATION

*How have I rejected the call to be a peacemaker? How can I do better in this season of Advent and throughout the year?*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*The truth of Advent is this: God is coming to us! We are not alone!*  
***In Christ, we are accepted. We are granted peace.***  
*In the name of Christ, we are forgiven and loved!*  
***Alleluia! Amen!***

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE “Angels We have Heard on High” (vs. 1)

113

\*PEACE OF CHRIST

*The Peace of Christ be with you!*  
***And also, with you!***

(Greet one another by sharing the Peace of Christ with those around you.)

<p>To reduce the risk of disease transmission, please do not shake hands or hug people outside of your immediate family. Instead, maintain proper social distance, look someone in the eyes and hold their gaze. Share peace with them by holding your hand to your chest and bowing your head to them or share some other appropriate sign.</p>
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SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***As we hear your Holy Word proclaimed in song this morning, open our ears that we may hear:  
Open us to learning and understanding,  
Open us to love and compassion,  
Open us to your promise of love, joy, peace, and hope found in these words. Amen.***

MESSAGE

**Choral Cantata: “A Song Unending”**

*John W. Peterson*

*The Combined Calvin/Westminster and Chancel Choirs*

*Directors: Linda Johnson and Robin Koozer*

*Instrumentalists: Linda Vollweiler, organ - Mary Plock, keyboard – Louie Eckhardt, trumpet*

*Soloists: Samantha Gapp, Allison Karnes, Carter Pursley,  
Owen DeBoer, Neil Kerr, Chris Schukei, Dillon Beede*

*Narrators: Greg Allen-Pickett and Eleanor Oliver*

OPENING

HYMN	“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”	123
SCRIPTURE	Luke 1:26-28a/Luke 1:29-30a	
HYMN	“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1-2)	133
SCRIPTURE	Luke 1:39-42,45/Luke 1:56	
HYMN	“O Little Town of Bethlehem”	121
SCRIPTURE	Micah 5:2-5a/Luke 2:4-5	

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Rev. Steven M. Fearing)

***We believe that God has come to us as a little child,  
making our weakness his strength,  
securing our salvation by becoming one of us,  
blessing us with a steadfast savior,  
filling our hearts with peace to be shared with one another.***

***We believe that God has birthed righteousness and justice into the world,  
giving us a law that will be written upon our hearts,  
declaring an everlasting reign of peace,  
defeating the power of pain and suffering.***

***We believe that God calls us to participate in this reality of love,  
inviting us to proclaim Christ’s resurrection,  
transforming us as disciples to go out into the world,  
sending us forth to announce his kingdom of peace,  
challenging us to see everyone as nothing less than beloved children.***

***This we believe. This we share. This we seek to embody in word and deed.***

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

\*OFFERTORY "We Three Kings" 151  
(Verses will be sung by the Choir – *Refrain* will be sung by the congregation after each verse)

*During the singing of "We Three Kings," akin to the Magi, the congregation is invited to come forward with their gifts/offerings and place them in the baskets on the Communion Table, or to the back and place them in the offering plates.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Loving God, we offer you our gold: The morning on the wing, the glow on the faces of children at play, the shining moments that brighten our lives.***

***We offer you our frankincense: The quiet reassurance of familiar things, the grace of care and friendship, the blessing of bread and our heart's yearning in prayer.***

***We offer you our myrrh: The ashes of our dreams, the bitter taste of our failures, the shadows through which we stumble.***

***Transform our inadequate gifts, that they may be an acceptable sacrifice of praise and transform our lives to reflect more deeply your justice and joy in the life of the world. 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.***

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-16, 20

\*HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" 119

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE "A Song Unending"

\*POSTLUDE "Fantasia on a French Carol" arr. Robert J. Hughes  
Linda Vollweiler, organist  
*(The postlude serves as a musical blessing for worshipers as they transition out into the world.)*

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP NEXT WEEK & INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS,  
FAMILY, AND FRIENDS! THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, A SERVICE OF  
LESSONS AND CAROLS!

8:30 am: Informal Worship  
10:30 am Traditional worship in the Sanctuary and broadcast live on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://www.facebook.com/fpchastings)

*(Please note, you do not need a Facebook account to view the service.)*

10:30 am service will also be broadcast live on KICS 1550 AM and 92.7 FM

### **December 12, 2021**

**THE RADIO BROADCAST** is given by JoAnn & Les Seiler

**FLOWERS** are given by First Presbyterian Church

**GREETERS 12/12/21:** Georgie Evans-Memorial Room; Kathy & Jim Duval-Narthex

**GREETERS 12/19/21:** Paula Crozier and Anne Bohlke-Memorial Room; Connie & Richard McClenahan-Narthex

**USHERS FOR DECEMBER: Team #4 George Howard (Captain)**

Susie Graham      Dixie McDonald      Gale McDonald      Ted Schroeder      Lori Schroeder

**ACOLYTES 12/12/21:** Gabriel Snell and Monroe Runcie

**ACOLYTES 12/19/21:** Ian Erickson and Mary Crum

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

**Head of Church:** Jesus Christ

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

**Director of Children & Family Parish**

**Ministries:** Rose Koepf

**Organist and Music Coordinator:** Linda Vollweiler

**Calvin/Westminster Choir Director:** Linda Johnson

**Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors:** Teresa & Tim 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

**Associate:** Kili Wenburg

**Bookkeeper:** Deb Hamburger

**Chancel Choir Director:** Dr. Robin Koozer

**Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster**

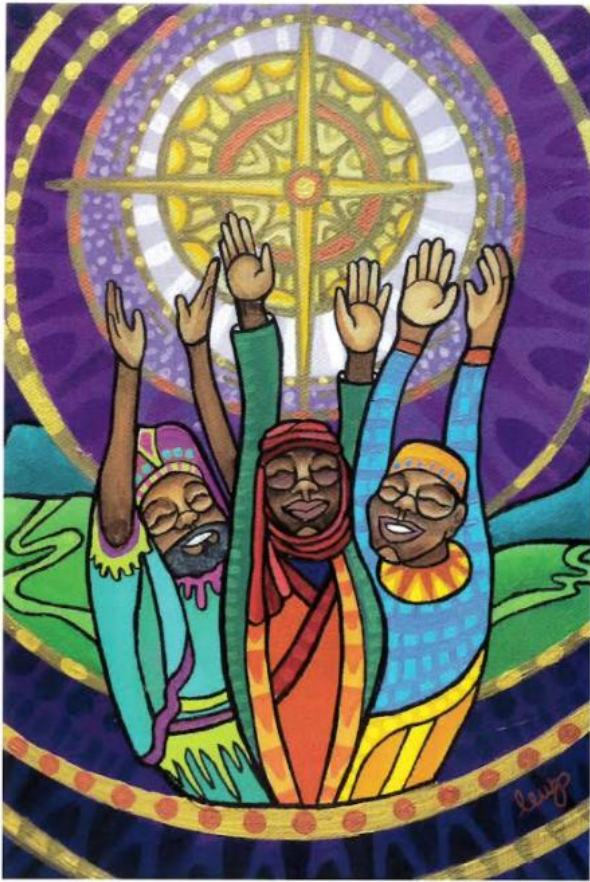
**Bells Director:** Dr. Byron Jensen

**Church Office Administrator:** Sarah Allen

**Facilities Manager:** Tony Calhoun

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey





 CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE



## PRAYERS:

Carol & Frank Medsker  
Lois Hafer  
Katherine Sachtleben  
Bev Stein  
Greg Howard  
Rachael Lay  
Frank Georgiana  
Tommy Thomsen  
Rich Portwood

Carl Utley  
Shirley Gass  
Lanae Hall's Mother  
Chris Wheeler  
Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Elfond  
Pam & Don Canady  
Brad Davis  
Michael Hahne  
Taralyn Davis and Family  
Elaine Schumacher  
Melba Trehern  
Family of Martha Stuckey  
Mary Lewis  
Tut Ruei Family

## IN MEMORY OF:

Carol Wheeler 10/24/2021  
Joyce Harrenstein 11/27/2021



## December's Communion Offering:

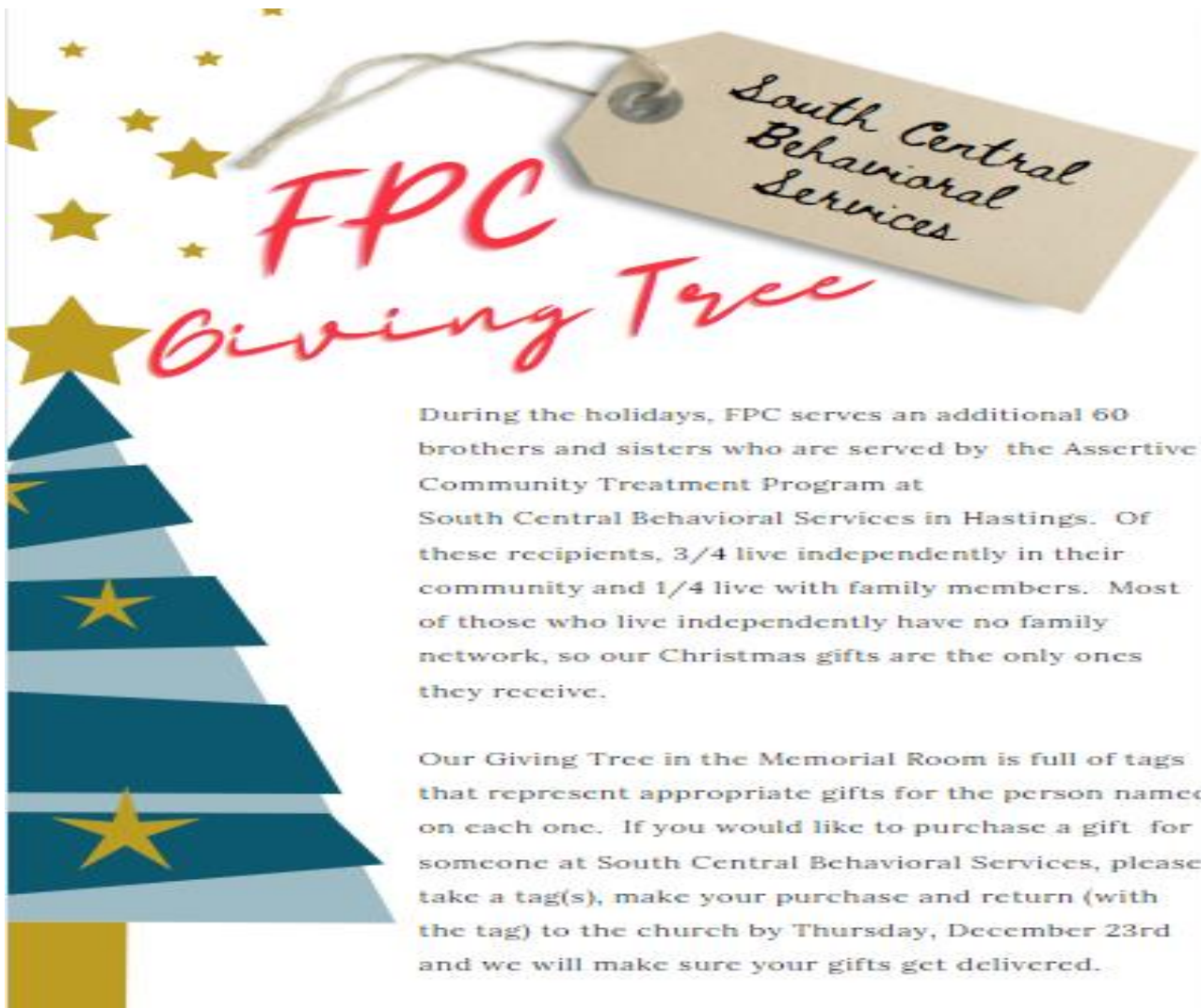
A portion of this month's offering will go to the *Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission* "Christmas Joy, Special Offerings Leadership: Past, Present and Future." Fifty percent of the Christmas Joy offering will go to retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs, and the other fifty percent will make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges within communities of color.

Another portion of the December Communion Offering will help the local organization "Maryland Living Center," located at 724 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Hastings, NE. MLC provides transitional apartments for homeless teens and young adults.

SUN 12/12		<i>No 8:30am worship</i>	
<i>Advent 3:</i>	9:15a-10:15a	Forum Series	Lydia Room or Zoom
<i>Boundless</i>	9:15a-10:15a	Sunday School	Various Locations
<i>Peace</i>	10:00a-10:30a	HAW Store Open	Between Narthex/Memorial Room
	10:30a-11:30a	Choral Cantata	Sanctuary
	11:30a-12:00p	HAW Store Open	Between Narthex/Memorial Room
MON 12/13	8:30a-10:00a	Walkers/Walkers Coffee (Mon-Thurs)	PEACE Gym/NW Classroom
	12:00p-3:00p	PEO Chapter HT	Library
	1:00p-3:00p	FPC Pickleball Open Gym	PEACE Gym
	2:00p-3:30p	Hearts & Hands Meal Packing	PEACE Center
	7:00p-8:00p	Boy Scouts	Scout Room
TUES 12/14	10:30a-11:30a	Staff Meeting	Zoom
	12:00p-1:00p	Bible Study with Pastor	Anderson
	4:30p-5:30p	Global Mission Meets	Confirmation Room
	6:00p-8:00p	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6:00p-7:00p	Trustees Meet	Anderson Room
	6:45p-7:45p	Deacons Meet	Kessler Room
WED 12/15	9:30a-10:30a	PW Circles 1 & 2	Fellowship Hall
	12:00p-1:00p	Noonday Bible Study	Zoom
	12:00pm	PW Circle 3	Fellowship Hall
	2:00p-3:30p	Hearts & Hands Meal Packing	PEACE Center
	4:00p-6:45p	WNL 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grades	Check-In Fellowship Hall
	6:00p-6:45p	Family Mealtime	Fellowship Hall
	6:20p-6:50p	Cal/West Bell Rehearsal	Bell Room
	6:50p-7:30p	Cal/West Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	6:30p-7:30p	FPC Pickleball Open Gym	PEACE Gym
	6:30p-9:00p	Woodcarvers	Church Lower Level
	7:30-8:15p	Chancel Bell Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	7:30p-8:30p	6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Youth Group	Youth Group Room
THURS 12/16	5:30p-7:30p	Session Meets	Anderson Room
	6:00p-8:00p	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6:00p-8:00p	Mexican Folkloric Dance Class	PEACE NE Classroom
	7:00p-8:00p	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
FRI 12/17	10:00a-12:00p	Mahjong Ladies	Church Room 111
SAT 12/18	9:45a-1:00p	United Harvest	PEACE Parking Lot
SUN 12/19	8:30a-9:15a	Informal Worship Service	Sanctuary
		<i>No Sunday School-All Ages</i>	
	10:00a-10:30a	HAW Store Open	Between Narthex/Memorial Room
	10:30a-11:30a	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary
	11:30a-12:00p	HAW Store Open	Between Narthex/Memorial Room

*Boundless Peace*





**FPC**  
*Giving Tree*

South Central Behavioral Services

During the holidays, FPC serves an additional 60 brothers and sisters who are served by the Assertive Community Treatment Program at South Central Behavioral Services in Hastings. Of these recipients, 3/4 live independently in their community and 1/4 live with family members. Most of those who live independently have no family network, so our Christmas gifts are the only ones they receive.

Our Giving Tree in the Memorial Room is full of tags that represent appropriate gifts for the person named on each one. If you would like to purchase a gift for someone at South Central Behavioral Services, please take a tag(s), make your purchase and return (with the tag) to the church by Thursday, December 23rd and we will make sure your gifts get delivered.

*Interrupting Violence - Jan 16 & 23*

*Reflections from a Hospice Chaplain - Jan 30, Feb 6 & 13*

*Lenten Learnings with Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh - Feb 27  
March 20 & 27, April 3 & 10*

*Ecology & Theology with Dr. Dorothy Dean - April 24  
May 1 & 8*

*Forum Series  
Spring 2021*

