



PRELUDE

“A Christmas Carol Sequence”
Linda Vollweiler, organ

arr. Jerry van der Pol

WELCOME

Pastor Greg Allen-Pickett

*HYMN AND PROCESSION OF ADVENT BANNER

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (verses 1, 6 & 7)

88

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE

Kern/Franco Family

Tonight, we celebrate Christmas Eve and the birth of the Christ Child! We light all of the candles on the advent wreath. During this season of Advent, we lit the candles of love, joy, peace, and hope.

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 to not 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 to not 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 we give thanks that God came to earth for us!

*HYMN

“Candles Glowing, Promise Showing”

(To the tune of “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” written by Rev. Elana Keppel Levy)

Candles glowing, promise showing Jesus born a baby small.
Hosts rejoicing, shepherds voicing – praising Christ the Lord of all.
God is with us, shout hosanna, raise a chorus, singing ever:
Praising Christ, the Lord of all! Praising Christ, the Lord of all!

OPENING PRAYER (Isaiah 9)

Rose Koepf

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

Announcements

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

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

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also, with you!

(Greet one another by sharing the peace of Christ)

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” (verses 1, 2 & 4)

134

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”

Family Choir, Tim Canady, director

READING 3

Luke 2:8-20, Matthew 2:1-12

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! The Wise Men follow the star and visit Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

*HYMN “We Three Kings of Orient Are (verses 1 & 5) 151

MESSAGE **The Fourth Wise Man** Greg Allen-Pickett

OFFERING

OFFERTORY “What Child is This” *arr. Stephen Bulla*
Louie Eckhardt-flugelhorn, Linda Vollweiler-organ

*DOXOLOGY “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (verses 1 & 3) 119

*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

(To avoid dripping wax, please tilt the unlit tip of your candle to the flame)

Ushers will light their candles off the Christ Candle from the Advent Wreath. It will be passed down the aisles until all candles are lit. During the lighting, we will sing the hymn “Silent Night” and dim the lights in the church. Bask in the warm glow of the Light of Christ, and raise your voices and candles on the last refrain.

*HYMN “Silent Night, Holy Night” 122

*CHARGE and BLESSING

*CLOSING HYMN “Go Tell It on the Mountain” 136

POSTLUDE “Go Tell It on the Mountain” *arr. Janet Linker*

*Instrumentalists: Linda Vollweiler, organ – Dr. Louie Eckhardt, flugelhorn
Deb Johnson & Sarah Wolf, flutes*

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP NEXT WEEK &

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!

Sunday, December 26

10:30am – Traditional Service

(No 8:30am Service, No Sunday School)

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

Thank you for coming to worship with us on Christmas Eve at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings! Whether you worship here every week, a few times a year, or this is your very first time visiting us, we are **glad that you are here** and we hope that you find a **warm welcome** as we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ!

There's no doubt that it has been a difficult two years. If you turn on the television or open the newspaper, we can be overwhelmed by messages of fear, despair, and anger. Here at First Presbyterian Church, we strive to replace that with **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.

Our church is actively engaged in **local ministry and mission** including the United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry, Open Table, and support of many local organizations including Habitat for Humanity, enCourage Advocacy Center, Revive Ministries, Crossroads Rescue Mission, and more. Every summer we offer Vacation Bible Schools for the whole community. 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 mission trips every year. These trips provide more opportunities for you to share the love of Christ and learn where God is at work around the world!

We invite you to join us in January for **Sunday morning worship** at 8:30 for a contemplative "Taize-style" worship experience. Or join us at 10:30 for a traditional worship experience with our glorious Chancel Choir and organ music. At both services you will find engaging, bible-based preaching.

Our church seeks to engage our hearts and our minds, so we also offer amazing **learning opportunities**. Come to Sunday School for all ages (including adults) at 9:15am to hear engaging speakers and dig into the Bible to learn about what it means to you. Come to our "Wednesday Night Live" program for 5-12 year olds from 4-6:45pm for bible study, rec time, music and dinner. We also have an active youth group for 6th-12th graders from 6-8:15pm every Wednesday night. In addition, we offer adult bible and book studies on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at noon.

Do you like to make **music**? Come join our Chancel Choir, play in the handbell choir, or bring your kids to our children and youth choirs or handbell groups.

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,



Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor