



PRELUDES

“O Christmas” arr. Howard Vance
Sarah Wolf and Deb Johnson, Flute
 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” *arr. Jack Gale*
Cathedral Brass Quintet

WELCOME

Pastor Greg

*HYMN AND PROCESSION OF ADVENT BANNER

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Verses 1, 6 & 7) 88
Dr. Amanda Boyd, song leader

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE Klug/Kliver Family

Today 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 give thanks that God came to earth for us!

*HYMN

“Candles Glowing, Promise Showing” Lyrics 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)

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

If you would like to share your name and contact information with the church, please scan this QR code with the camera on your phone and submit the form.

First Presbyterian Church



Sign-In QR Code

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

*PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also, with you!

(Greet one another by sharing the peace of Christ)

In this cold and flu season, we are encouraging safety. Instead of shaking hands or hugging, you can 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 sharing some other appropriate sign.

READING 1

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

An angel 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

“I Wonder as I Wander”

arr. James Stephenson

This traditional Appalachian carol dating to 1933 is attributed to traveling evangelist Annie Morgan. The verses of the song tell the story of Jesus’ birth and his work of redemption. Below are the lyrics for you to reflect on as you listen to Cathedral Brass play the music:

*When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.*

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky
That Jesus my Savior did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I
I wonder as I wander out under the sky*

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 had heard and seen!

*HYMN "Angels We Have Heard on High" 113

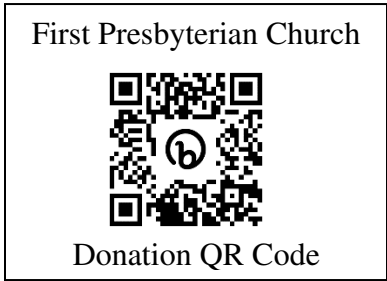
MESSAGE "In the Flesh" Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett

OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Coventry Carol"

arr. Ben Marcato

For the health and safety of our members and visitors, we will not pass a plate during the offering. You are invited to give by placing your offering in the plates at the back of the sanctuary as you leave, by visiting our website <https://fpchastings.org/give-online/> or by scanning the QR code to give on-line using your credit card.



*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 from 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" (vs. 1 & 3) 136

POSTLUDE My Spirit Be Joyful J.S. Bach

Musicians: *Linda Vollweiler, Organ*
Cathedral Brass Quintet: *Louie Eckhardt, trumpet; Erin Beave, trumpet; Andrew Buller, horn; Nathan LeFeber, trombone; Robert Benton, tuba*

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP TOMORROW AND NEXT YEAR &
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!

Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day
10:30AM – Christmas Morning Birthday Brunch
Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall
(No 8:30 Service, No Sunday School)

Sunday, January 1 - Epiphany
10:30AM – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary with Special Music
(No 8:30 Service, No Sunday School)

12/24/22

USHERS: Susan Meeske, Brady Rhodes, Jessica Meeske, and Todd Pankratz

GREETERS: Daveta & Dick Brader; Melissa Davis



Christmas Morning Birthday Brunch



Every 11, 6, 5, & 6 years Christmas falls on a Sunday. Lucky for us, this year is one of those years! All are welcome to join us on Christmas morning at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall to celebrate Christmas morning with a time of worship, fellowship, and birthday brunch. We'll provide egg bake and a waffle bar for those in attendance as we gather around tables to sing hymns and consider how we can become participants in Christmas. Come in your Christmas pajamas if you'd like! There will not be an 8:30 a.m. service on Christmas day so we hope you can join us at 10:30 for Christmas Morning Birthday Brunch.

Sanctuary Poinsettias

Given by

Sally Smith

Nolan, Clara & Calvin Soderquist

Doug Soderquist

Marnie Soderquist

Steph, Lauren, Matt and Rosie

Mary and Jorn Olsen

Chris Olsen

Erica Olsen & Scott Henry

Their Family

Dick & Pat Kleiber

Dick & Pat Kleiber

His family

The Shoemaker/Friedewald Family

The Shoemaker/Friedewald Family

Byron & Deb Jensen & Families

Phil & Dana Odom

Phil & Dana Odom

Her family

Kathy & Family

Justin, Kili, Carter & Selah Wenburg

Rob & Michelle Kerr

John & Cathy Pershing

The Hafer Family

In Memory of

Loved Ones

Grandma Julie

Calvin & Phyllis Soderquist

Lloyd & Virginia Wright

Mark Bliss

Mark Bliss

Gretchen and Hal Lainson

Steve Kleiber

Don Kleiber

Bob Foote

Alfred & Dorothy Friedewald

Ome & Honor Shoemaker

Nicole Jensen

Jimmy & Louise Coburn

L.W. & Mary Odom

Rogene Wenburg

Dennis Utter

Rogene Wenburg

John & Dixie Kerr, Cara Kerr Tagg

Our Parents and Stephanie

Merle & Annabelle Hafer

Boyd & Mary Lou Leymaster



Sanctuary Poinsettias



Given by

Jim & Carol Harrenstein
Kristen & Jesse Manske
Tracy & Kenny Brooks

The Northrop Family

The Northrop Family

The Northrop Family

Don & Marie Rasmussen

Colleen & George Adam

Dick & Daveta Brader

Lisa Unger

The Hermes Family

Jan Bolliger

Barbara Harrington and family

Lanae Hall & Family

Given by

Denny Storer

John & Sharon Brooks

Sally Smith

Colleen & George Adam

Flossie Sanderson

Kathy & Curtis Reimer

In Memory of

Parents & Grandparents

David E. Northrop

Frank W. Northrop

Michele L. Northrop

Our Parents

Our Parents

Brandon Brader

Kurt Unger

Mark Bliss

My Parents- Don & Lucille McHargue
My Sister- Marcia Meshbeshier
My Granddaughter Livy Zamora

John A. Harrington

Ralph & Leila Merwin

In Honor of

Carole Storer

Andrea

My Children- Art, Peggy, Karen, Pam
and Sharon

First Presbyterian Church Staff

My Family


The Kneale and Reimer Families

Join us in 2023 for incredible music,
thought-provoking classes, fellowship, and fun!

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
Presents
International performer, educator and church musician

Jens Korndörfer

3 p.m., Sunday, January 15, 2023
First Presbyterian Church
621 N. Lincoln, Hastings, Nebraska



FREE pipe organ concert part of 150th year celebration
First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.



The Church Office will be Closed
on December 26, 27 and 28th for
the Christmas holiday and on January 2
for the New Years holiday

The Things We Never Read



An Exploration of Some Non-lectionary Texts
Led by Greg Allen-Pickett, Dan Deffenbaugh, & Doodle Harris

9:15 AM - Lydia Room
January 8, 15, & 22

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!

In 2023, First Presbyterian Church of Hastings will celebrate its 150th anniversary! We have many exciting events that we are scheduling throughout the year including special music offerings, a food truck roundup event and a car show in our parking lot, a living history night event, bagpipes, a bluegrass worship service, a jazz worship service, and so much more. We hope you will join us in the coming year as we celebrate 150 years of sharing the love of Christ from the heart of Hastings.

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 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 on Sunday mornings at 8:30 for a contemplative worship experience in our chapel. Or join us at 10:30 for a traditional worship experience in our sanctuary 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. During the week, bring your kids to our “Wednesday Night Live” program for 3-12-year-olds from 5-6:45pm for bible study, rec time, music, and dinner. We also have an active youth group for 6th-12th graders from 5-7pm every Sunday 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 me at greg@fpchastings.org

In Christ,



Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor