



Lord's Day Worship Service and Celebration of the 150th Anniversary
First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
September 10, 2023

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ

Ministers: All Members of the Church

Participating in Worship Leadership today:

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor (2017-Present)	Karen Doerr, Clerk of Session
Rev. John H.G. Curtiss (served as Associate Pastor 2005-2011), Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Twin Cities Area	
Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Elfond (served as Associate Pastor 1994-1998), Honorably Retired	
Rev. Ron Holmes (served as Associate Pastor 1988-1993), Honorably Retired	
Rev. Duane Queen (served as Associate Pastor 1969-1979), Honorably Retired	
Rev. Stan Kessler (son of Rev. Silas Kessler who served 1940-1976), Honorably Retired	
Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann, Associate Pastor (2017-Present)	
Dr. Rich Lloyd, President of Hastings College	
Rev. Lance Clay, Pastor of First United Methodist Church	
Rev. Polly Deppen-Williams, Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Central Nebraska	
Linda Vollweiler, Organist	Dr. Byron Jensen, Handbell Choir Director
Dr. Brett Epperson & Linda Johnson, Choir Directors	Cathedral Brass Quintet

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, First Presbyterian Church was established on August 10, 1873, only one year after the town of Hastings was established; and

WHEREAS, the Church has grown in both members and facilities over the past century and a half, always striving to be a source of spiritual nurture and a community of hope for the residents of Hastings, Nebraska, and its surrounding region; and

WHEREAS, since its inception 150 years ago, the church has contributed to the city, region, and state by founding Hastings College in 1882 and being involved in the founding and support of many other vital social service organizations in the community; and

WHEREAS, First Presbyterian Church of Hastings has consistently served as a center of worship, civic life, and benevolence throughout its tenure, most recently through its establishment of the PEACE center as a site for multiple community service and outreach programs, always striving to show the love of God through acts of service; and

WHEREAS, the Hastings community as a whole benefits from the active civic involvement, inspiring music, and prayers of the people of the First Presbyterian church,

NOW THEREFORE, I, Corey Stutte, Mayor of the city of Hastings, Nebraska, do hereby proclaim September 10, 2023, as

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 150TH ANNIVERSARY DAY

and ask area residents to join me in showing appreciation to one of the best community partners the City of Hastings could ever have.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this tenth day of September, the year of two thousand and twenty-three.

PRELUDE MUSIC, BEARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST, AND PROCESSIONAL
“The Drums and Cymbals” *Sigfried Karg-Elert/arr. Diane Bish* Linda Vollweiler, Organ
“Canzona Bergamasca” *Samuel Scheidt* Cathedral Brass

PROCLAMATION FROM THE CITY OF HASTINGS

Read by Matt Fong, president of the Hastings City Council and member of First Presbyterian Church

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

CHORAL INTROIT

“Be Thou My Vision”

arr. Frank & Marie Pooler

Chancel Choir and Calvin/Westminster Youth Choir, director Brett Epperson

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 95)

Clerk of Session, Karen Doerr

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD!

Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come before God with thanksgiving;

And extol God with music and song.

Come, let us bow down in worship,

Let us kneel before the Lord our maker;

For the Lord is our God,

And we are God’s people.

Today, as we celebrate 150 years of faithfulness,

We gather in awe and gratitude before the One who has sustained us.

Let our songs of praise echo through the ages,

Proclaiming God’s faithfulness and love, which endure forever.

As we worship today, let us remember our past with thanksgiving,

And look forward to the future with hope, for the Lord is with us always.

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD!

Let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation! Come, let us worship God!

*HYMN

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

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GREETING AND CALL TO CONFESSION

John Curtiss

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious and loving God, as we gather here today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of this beloved church, we come before you with hearts filled with gratitude and humility. We acknowledge your presence in the history of this congregation, guiding us through joys and challenges, sustaining us through trials and triumphs.

Yet, O Lord, we are mindful of the times when we have fallen short of your perfect love and grace. In this moment of reflection, we offer our sincere confession:

We confess, O God, that at times we have been complacent in our faith, taking for granted the blessings of this church and failing to fully engage in your work. Forgive us, O Lord.

We confess that we have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves, ignoring the cries of those in need and failing to be the instruments of your justice and compassion. Forgive us, Lord.

We confess that we have allowed divisions to creep into our fellowship, forgetting that we are one body in Christ and failing to seek reconciliation and unity. Forgive us, Lord.

On this special occasion, we ask for your forgiveness and for the grace to renew our commitment to you and to one another. May the love that has sustained this congregation for 150 years continue to be a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration for generations to come. Grant us the strength and wisdom to be faithful disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Just as Christ offered grace and forgiveness to the generations who have come before us,

So Christ offers grace and forgiveness to us today.

Rejoice! For in Christ, we are forgiven and loved!

Alleluia! Amen!

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

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*GREETING AND PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Cheryl Ann Elfond

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also, with you!

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

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

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



CELEBRATION OF PARTNERSHIPS

Rich Lloyd – President of Hastings College
Lance Clay – Pastor of First United Methodist Church

GREETING AND PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ron Holmes

Lord of hope, we come to you on this joyous day of celebration. May your Holy Word enter our minds and our hearts. May it inspire us all to be disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaim the Good News to the world. Amen.

1ST SCRIPTURE READING – Psalm 145:1-8

ANTHEM

“Look at the World”

John Rutter

Chancel Choir and Calvin/Westminster Youth Choir, director Brett Epperson

2ND SCRIPTURE READING – Hebrews 12:1-3, 22-29

MESSAGE

“Unshaken yet Stirred”

Greg Allen-Pickett

Church records show that the sermon preached on Sunday, September 9, 1973 by Rev. Silas Kessler on the church's 100th anniversary was based on Hebrews 12. This same passage, along with quotations from Rev. Kessler's sermon, will be used today on the occasion of the church's 150th anniversary.

*HYMN

“Fight the Good Fight”

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GREETING AND AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Apostles' Creed)

Duane Queen

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS

Polly Deppen-Williams and Greg Allen-Pickett

The Call to Discipleship

Hear the gracious words of our Savior Jesus Christ: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Friends, the call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. It is the new life that we enter through our baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering, and a responsibility. On this day of celebration, I invite you to claim again the promises of God, and to renew your commitment as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eternal and gracious God, we give you thanks. In countless ways, you have revealed yourself in ages past and have blessed us with signs of your grace. We rejoice that you claimed us in our baptism and that by your grace we are born anew. By your Holy Spirit renew us, that we may be empowered to do your will and continue forever in the risen life of Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all glory and honor, now and forever. ***Amen.***

Congregational Vows

You are the people of God, called out of the world in Jesus Christ, set apart by baptism for God's work and ministry in the world. You are also a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), entrusted with Christ's mission. Do you promise to serve Christ by your worship and ministry, through your prayers and gifts, your study and service, and so fulfill your calling to be disciples of Jesus Christ? If so, say, "We do." ***We do.***

Friends, remember your baptism and be thankful. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen.***

Prayer

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us, and by your Spirit, you are working in our lives. Establish us in your truth, and guide us by your spirit, that, together with all your people, we may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. All honor and glory be yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

First Presbyterian
Church



Donation QR Code

You can give this morning by putting your offering in the offering plates that will be passed through the pews during the offertory, or you can scan the QR code or give online:

<https://fpchastings.org/give-online/>

OFFERTORY

“Bell Peal on LASST UNS ERFREUEN”
Chancel Handbell Choir, director Byron Jensen

arr. Linda R. Lamb

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND GREETING

Stan Kessler

Gracious and loving God, on this momentous day that we celebrate the 150th anniversary of our beloved church, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and joy. We thank you for the countless blessings you have bestowed upon this congregation over the years, for the faithful servants who have gone before us, and for the enduring spirit that has sustained us through the generations.

As we bring our offerings before you today, we do so with joyful hearts, mindful of the sacrifices and the love that have built and sustained this place of worship for so long. We dedicate these gifts, both large and small, as tokens of our commitment to your holy work of love, justice, compassion, and peace in this community and the world beyond.

We pray that you would bless these offerings, just as you have blessed us, and multiply them for your kingdom-building work on earth. May they be used to further the mission of your church, to spread the Good News of your love and grace, and to support those in need, both within our congregation and in the wider world.

In all that we do, may we be a light to our community, a source of comfort and strength to one another, and a beacon of your love to a world in need. May our offerings and our lives be a testament to the faith that has sustained us for 150 years and will continue to do so for generations to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Damen Jensen-Heitmann

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.

(This was the closing hymn for the 100th and 125th Anniversary Worship Service with new verses written by Doris Morhart for the 125th and Hannah & Damen Jensen-Heitmann for the 150th)

***1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation by water and the word;
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.
With God's own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.***

****2. This church of Christ was founded here on the wind-swept plain
in hope and expectation that God would raise from grain;
a matchless faith enduring through fire and strife and tear;
a faith which through time calls us to be on earth Christ's heir.***

****3. We celebrate the journey that brought us to this day,
from hearts bound strong together, to hands that help and pray.
The love formed in this building spreads wide across the earth,
a single string connecting us to God's holy word.***

****4. So let us now, in union, led by the God we serve
go to the world determined to live the faith we've learned.
Live peaceably with others. Be hope for those in need.
Become God's very favor, a sign of grace in deed.***

*Verse 2 - written by church member Doris Morhart on the 125th Anniversary of the Church

*Verse 3 - written by church member Hannah Jensen-Heitmann for the 150th Anniversary

*Verse 4 - written by associate pastor Damen Jensen-Heitmann for the 150th Anniversary

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” *arr. Gilbert Martin*
Chancel Choir, director Brett Epperson

*POSTLUDE “Toccata from Symphony V” *Charles-Marie Widor*
Organist Linda Vollweiler and the Cathedral Brass Quintet

***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
Organist and Music Director: Linda Vollweiler
Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Brett Epperson
Chancel Bells & Calvin/Westminster
Bells Director: Dr. Byron Jensen
Calvin/Westminster Choir Director: Linda Johnson
Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors: Tim and Teresa Canady
Praise/Alleluia Bells Choir Director: Dr. Susan Oliver
Accompanist and Music Coordinator: Mary Plock

Ministers: Members of the Church
Associate Pastor: Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann
Director of Children & Family
Ministries: Rose Koepf
Church Office Administrator: Melissa Davis
Facilities Manager: Tony Calhoun
Bookkeeper: Deb Hamburger
Scholar in Residence: Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given in memory of Dr. Robert McIntire by Marilyn McIntire.

THE FLOWERS are given in memory of Dr. Robert McIntire by Marilyn McIntire.

USHERS (Team #1) Captain – Chuck Hastings, LaVern Franzen, Elaine Specht, Lynne Friedewald, Chuck Shoemaker

ACOLYTES Peter & Charlie Ratzlaff

GREETERS Jeni & George Howard; Clyde Sachtleben

Please pray for

Brad Davis	Pam Canady
Elaine Schumacher	Ashley Ibach
Dave Schawang	Reta & Lowell Johnson
Renee Miller	Carl Utley
Rich Portwood	Barry Thomson
Shirley Gass	Stephen Gass
Don Rasmussen	Curtis Reimer and family
Audre Zaroban	Greg Howard
Katharine Davis	Ken Fisk
Carter Johnson	Mary Wolf
Scott Johnson	Marie Rasmussen
Tarah Davis & family	Pamela Lainson & family
Matt Campbell	Everest Beacon (Zabloudil)
June Nielsen	Jacob Shin
Vernon Groves	Jim Boeve
family of Jim Hoffman	family of Peter Duang
Rick Gosda and family	Rita Epperson
Brian Johnson	Neil Kerr and family

In memory of
Peter Duang, who passed
away on 8/16/2023
Jim Hoffman, who passed
away on 8/29/2023

Sunday 9/10	9:15am-10:15am	Sunday School for all ages	various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	150th Anniversary Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	12pm	150th Celebration Luncheon	PEACE Center Gym
Monday 9/11	1-3pm	1 st Pres Pickleball	PEACE-GYM
	1:30-3:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5:30pm	Mission Committee meets	PEACE NW Classroom
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tuesday 9/12	12pm	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm-6pm	Red Cross Bloodmobile	Fellowship Hall
	12pm	NO Bible Study	
	5:30pm	Congregational Life Meet	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Trustees Meet	Confirmation Room
	6:45pm	Deacons Meet	Anderson Room
	7pm-8pm	CCC Dog Obedience	PEACE NE Classroom
Wednesday 9/13	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	5pm-7:15pm	WNL PreK-12 th grade	Various
	6:30pm-9pm	Woodcarvers Meet	Basement
	6:45pm	Chancel Choir	Choir Room
	7:30pm	Chancel Bells	Bell Room
Thursday 9/14	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	5pm	Personnel Committee	As needed
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 9/15	10am	Mahjong	Basement Youth Room
Saturday 9/16		United Harvest	
	10am	Lori Carroll Memorial Service with reception to follow	Memorial Service- Chapel Reception- Fellowship Hall
Sunday 9/17	8:30am-9:15am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am-10:15am	Sunday School for all ages	various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex