



Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24th, 2023 at 5:30pm
First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

PRELUDE

"The Sweet Sounds of Snowfall"
The Cathedral Brass

Cait Nishimura

WELCOME

Pastor Greg

*HYMN AND PROCESSION OF ADVENT BANNER

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Verses 1, 6 & 7)

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE

Johnson/Ellerbee 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 we 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)

Director of Christian Education, Rose Koeppe

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

“Where you there that Christmas night?”

Natalie Sleeth

Praise and Alleluia Choir, director Teresa Canady; Mary Plock, piano

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

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!”

119

During the singing of the hymn, the children are invited to come down to the front of the church to join Pastor Greg and Rose Koepp for the message

MESSAGE

“What can we bring?” Greg Allen-Pickett and Rose Koepp

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“My Spirit Be Joyful”
Cathedral Brass

J.S. Bach arr. Herforth

You are invited to give by placing your offering in the plates that will be passed through the pews, or by scanning the QR code to give on-line using your credit card.

First Presbyterian Church



Donation QR Code

*DOXOLOGY

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above; Glory to God In the highest: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light, Lo! he abhors not the Virgin’s womb; Very God, Begotten, not created: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born that happy morning, Jesu, to thee be glory giv’n; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*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

“Joy to the World”

G.F. Handel, arr. Gale

Musicians: *Linda Vollweiler, Organ*

Cathedral Brass Quintet featuring: *Dr. Louie Eckhardt, trumpet; Erin Beave, trumpet; Andrew Buller, horn; Nathan LeFeber, trombone; Dr. Robert Benton, tuba*

COME JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 31ST AND IN THE NEW YEAR
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!

Sunday, December 31

10:30AM – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
(there will be no early service or Sunday School)

Sunday, January 7 - Epiphany

8:30AM – Contemplative Worship in the Chapel with Communion

10:30AM – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion

USHERS Jessica Meeske, Todd Pankratz, Sophia Pankratz, Andrew Barrows

GREETERS Stephanie Bliss, Melissa Davis

Sunday 12/24	10:30am	Worship Service w/Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
	2pm	Christmas Eve Service (Cozy Christmas)	College View
	5:30pm	Christmas Eve Service (A Family Christmas)	Sanctuary
	7:30pm	Christmas Eve Service (Traditional Service)	Sanctuary
	11pm	Christmas Eve Service (Holy Night)	Sanctuary
		12/25/23 - 1/1/24- Church Office Closed	
Wednesday 12/27	12pm-6pm	Red Cross Blood Drive	Fellowship Hall
Sunday 12/31	10am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, Facebook
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex

Sanctuary Poinsettias

In Memory of

Sharon Harvey

Demas & Twila Griess

Gideon & Luella Nuss

Betty & Robert Hunzeker

Norma Vineyard

Ted Van Fossen

Our Parents

Jim & Mary Jeanne Cooke

Dennis Utter

Our Parents

Mr. & Mrs. Don McHargue (parents)

Marcia Meshbesh (sister)

Livy Michele Zamora (granddaughter)

Our Parents & Grandparents

O.J., Julia, and Jim McDougal

Mark Bliss

Grandma Julie

Our Parents

Steve Kleiber

Don Kleiber

Our Parents

Stephanie Pershing

John W. Hatcher

Merle & Annabelle Hafer

Boyd & Mary Lou Leymaster

Kurt Unger

Melba Trehern

Loved Ones

Given By

Beverly Phillips

family of Paul & Belinda Nuss

Marge Adams & Kathy Carrier

his family

Carolyn & Rich McKenzie

Dave & Linda Cooke

Kathy & family

Colleen & George Adam

Jan Bolliger

Melissa Davis & Wade Giesler

the McDougal/Koozer family

Steph, Lauren, Matt, Rosie, and Hal

Nolan, Clara, and Calvin Soderquist

Doug & Marnie Soderquist

Pat & Dick Kleiber

John & Cathy Pershing

Sally Hatcher

Charlie & Lois Hafer and family

Lisa Unger

Sally Smith



Sanctuary Poinsettias



In Memory of

Rogene Wenburg

Our Parents

Nicole Jensen

Our Parents

Mark Bliss

Ryan Struss

Gretchen & Hal Lainson

Mark Bliss

Alfred & Dorothy Friedewald
Ome & Honor Shoemaker

Walter & Mary Anne Seiler
Alexander & Lois Wacker

David E. Northrop
Frank W. Northrop
Michele L. Northrop

Stacye Hunter
Joe & Ora Peeples

In Honor of

Andrea

My family

Margaret & Charles Hermes

Church Musicians

Hannah & Damen Jensen-Heitmann
Nathan Jensen & Anna Griggs

Church Staff

Carole Storer

Our Children and Grandchildren

Charles & Margaret Hunter

Given By

her family

Karen & Roger Doerr

Deb & Byron Jensen

Don & Marie Rasmussen

the Hermes family

Kathy & Gayle Struss

Hermes, Olsen, Bliss, and Overmiller families

Mary, Jorn, Chris, Erica, and Scott

Shoemaker/Friedewald family

Jerry & Mary Seiler

the Northrop family

Mike Hunter

Given By

John & Sharon Brooks

Flossie Sanderson

the Bliss and Hermes families

Ann & Robin Koozer

Deb & Byron Jensen

Colleen & George Adam

Denny Storer

Gayle & Kathy Struss

Mike Hunter

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

2023/2024 SCHEDULE

5:00 – 5:30 Family Meal Time

Come when you can; meal is cafeteria style. Table Parents will be at each table to help facilitate meal time. ALL family members are welcome!

5:30 – 7:00 PreK-K Frolic

5:30 – 6:00 1st-5th Bells; 6th-12th Choir

6:00 – 6:30 1st-5th Choir; 6th-12th Bells

6:30 – 7:15 6th-12th Youth Group

6:30 – 7:00 1st-5th Bible Time

7:00 – 7:15 *optional* PreK-5th

Recreation Time

(Rec. time is intended for students who need to wait for a ride.)

**WE ASK THAT A GROWNUP COMES INTO
THE BUILDING TO PICK UP STUDENTS AT
THE END OF THE NIGHT.**

Please pray for

Brad Davis	Pam Canady
Elaine Schumacher	Ashley Ibach
Dave Schawang	Reta & Lowell Johnson
Renee Miller	Carl Utley
John Northrop	Barry Thomson
Shirley Gass	Stephen Gass
Audre Zaroban	Greg Howard
Carter Johnson	Ken Fisk
Scott Johnson	Mary Wolf
Tarah Davis & family	Everest Beacon (Zabloudil)
Matt Campbell	Jim Boeve
June Nielsen	family of Joyce Mefford
Neil Kerr and family	Paul Nuss
Vernon Groves	Vicki (Fisk) Nieves
Carol Medsker	Dana Odom
Frances Kamler	family of Roberta Lloyd
John Carllson	Melissa Davis & family

In Memory Of

Roberta Lloyd, who passed away
on 12/8/23



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 celebrated its 150th anniversary! We hope you will join us in the coming year as we begin our 151st year 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 with communion every week. Or join us at 10:30 for a traditional worship experience in our sanctuary with our glorious Chancel Choir, handbell choirs, youth and children's choirs 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 5-7pm for bible study, rec time, music and dinner. We also have an active youth group for 6th-12th graders from 5-7pm 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 me at greg@fpchastings.org

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor