First Sunday in Christmas
December 31, 2023
10:30am Service

PRELUDE — "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" — *Paul Manz*
"Good Christian Folk, Rejoice" — *Wilbur Held*
Organist Linda Vollweiler

WELCOME — Damen Jensen-Heitmann

*HYMN — "Of the Father's Love Begotten" — 108
(Verses 1, 2, 3)
Tyler Koepp, Song Leader

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Even now, O God, our hearts still bask in the warm glow of candle light and Christmas Eve.
Our souls are steady, and our hearts rejoice in the birth of our savior.
We thank you, gracious God, that we are not alone.
We praise you for the coming of your anointed messenger.
We join our voices with John the Baptist and hail Christ's presence.
We dedicate ourselves to following in Christ's ways.

*HYMN — "Of the Father's Love Begotten" — 108
(Verses 4, 5, 6)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Despite our insistence, we don't actually want new beginnings. We like the patterns we've created for ourselves. We enjoy putting ourselves before others. It's easier to assume that we're right all the time. It takes work to follow Jesus at the exclusion of everything else. And we're really not that into work right now. Forgive us, O God, for ignoring the new beginnings that you offer us. Give us that which we need to turn from our own will and towards yours. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION & CONTEMPLATION
Is God calling you to "walk away" from something?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God welcomes all. God loves all.
God forgives those with penitent hearts.
By God's gracious mercy, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE "Glory Be to the Father" 581

*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)

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TIME WITH CHILDREN Rose Koepp
(While the children are coming forward, the congregation will sing "This Little Light of Mine")

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We pray, O God, that we might encounter you in some way in the reading and proclamation of your Holy Word. In these stories and ponderings, help us to find ourselves, our neighbors, and you. Amen.

1ST SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 1:1-8

INTERLUDE "Prepare Ye Way of the Lord"

2ND SCRIPTURE READING – Mark 1:9-20

MESSAGE "A Voice? Whose Voice?"

*HYMN "Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice" 163

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

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

OFFERTORY "Silent Night" *arr. Mike Garson*
Sarah Wolf, flute; Mary Plock, piano

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

To God be the glory. To God be our lives. To God be these gifts that they might bring aid to the suffering, hope to the lost, and peace to all. 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.

*HYMN "Love Has Come" 110

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE Auld Lang Syne *Mike Garson*

POSTLUDE "Fantasia on a French Carol" *arr. Hughes*

*(*Indicates the congregation shall stand as they are able.)*

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given by First Presbyterian Church.

THE FLOWERS are given by First Presbyterian Church.

USHERS (Team #4) George Howard, Susie Graham, Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald, Lori Schroeder, Ted Schroeder

GREETERS

DECEMBER	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX
31	Milrae & Harold Korb	Cathy & John Pershing

January Ushers (Team #5) Captain – Ken Stein, Matt Fong, Julie Thomsen

January Greeters

JANUARY	MEMORIAL ROOM	NARTHEX
7	Erica & Brent Brooks	Daveta & Dick Brader
14	Lesa & Steve Cropley	Melissa Davis
21	Karen & Roger Doerr	Andrew Barrows
28	Linda & Richard Johnson	Jan Bolliger

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 AT 11:30AM, FPC SANCTUARY

Annual Congregational Meeting

ANYONE CAN ATTEND, ALL MEMBERS CAN VOTE

Sunday 12/31	10am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, Facebook
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Narthex
Monday 1/1/24		**Church Office Closed**	
Tuesday 1/2	10:15am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	WAM Meeting	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	United Harvest Board Meeting	PEACE NW Classroom
Wednesday 1/3	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
		NO WNL	
	6:30pm-9pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
Thursday 1/4	12:30pm	Dulcimer	Lydia Room
	6pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 1/5	9:30am	Church Women United Meeting	Fellowship Hall
	10am	Mahjong	Basement Youth Room
Sunday 1/7	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	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
	11:30am	Removal of the Greens	

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 Koepp
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

Please pray for

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

In Memory Of

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