



# Advent Week One: Hope

December 1, 2024

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings

## PRELUDE

“Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People”  
“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”  
Organist Linda Vollweiler

*arr. Matthew McConnell*

*arr. Michael Burkhardt*

## WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

## INTROIT

“The Carol of the Birds”

*John Jacob Niles*

Tyler Koepp, Vocals – Linda Vollweiler, Organ

For many a bird did wake and fly  
Curoo, curoo-oo, curoo  
For many a bird did wake and fly  
To the manger bed with a wandering cry  
On Christmas day in the morning  
Curoo, curoo, curoo-oo-oo-oo  
Curoo, curoo-oo, curoo-oo-oo-oo

The owl was there with eyes so wide  
Curoo, curoo-oo, curoo  
The owl was there with eyes so wide  
And he did sing at sweet Mary's side  
On Christmas day in the morning  
Curoo, curoo, curoo-oo-oo-oo  
Curoo, curoo-oo, curoo-oo-oo-oo

The lark, the dove, the red bird came  
Curoo, curoo-oo, curoo  
The lark, the dove, the red bird came  
And they did sing in sweet Jesus' name  
On Christmas day in the morning  
Curoo, curoo, curoo-oo-oo-oo  
Curoo, curoo-oo, curoo-oo-oo-oo

The shepherds knelt upon the hay  
Curoo, curoo-oo, curoo  
The shepherds knelt upon the hay  
And the angels sang the night away  
On Christmas day in the morning  
Curoo, curoo, curoo-oo-oo-oo  
Curoo, curoo-oo, curoo-oo-oo-oo

## CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Koepp Family

This is the first Sunday in Advent. Today, we light one candle:

***The candle of hope!***

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

***During this Advent season, we recognize that we are hungry for hope and that we live in a world that is desperate for hope.***

We will light the candle of hope today as a prayer and as a reminder that darkness will not win.

***Hope will win!***

For we read: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

***In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.***

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

***As we light this Advent candle, let us boldly proclaim that we are a people of hope! Come, Lord Jesus, let us worship you!***

\*OPENING HYMN “Light Dawns on a Weary World” (vs 1 & 3, no refrain)

79

Tyler Koepp, Song Leader

*Light dawn on a weary world; When eyes begin to see all people’s dignity.*

*Light dawn on a weary world: The promised day of justice comes.*

*Hope blooms in a weary world; When creatures, once forlorn, find wilderness reborn.*

*Hope blooms in a weary world: The promised green of Eden comes.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Great God of Presence and Promised Coming, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to fulfill your desire for us to love one another. We have not followed the paths you have given us, choosing instead to follow our own.***

***We have broken relationships, we chase material desires, we have rebelled against your love. We have ignored the cry of the needy, the mouth of the poor is still hungry for mercy, the cause of the oppressed is still thirsty for justice. Free us for loving obedience, through the Advent of Christ, Our Lord, Our Messiah, Our Hope.***

SILENT CONFESSION & QUESTION FOR CONTEMPLATION

*How can I use this season of Advent to recommit to trusting in God’s hope?*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Good News! Good News! Good News! God so loved the world that God gave us, sinful and broken humanity, a gift:

***Emmanuel, God with us. This is proof of God's love for us!***

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and loved!

***Alleluia! Amen!***

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

582

\*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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

***Speak to us, Lord. Speak to us in the waiting, the watching, the hoping, the longing, the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.***

***Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days, and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.***



Scan to sign-in and let us know you were here.

1<sup>st</sup> SCRIPTURE READING – Daniel 6:6-18

ANTHEM

"What Songs Were Sung"

John Jacob Niles

We cannot tell, we do not know What stars shone down so long ago, when Mary birthed her own sweet Son And peace and love be came as one. The Son of God, as scriptures said, Was Virgin born in a tiny shed, where simple shepherds stood hard by While heav'nly sound filled up the sky. Now let us stand, uncovered all, before this crèche in lowly stall, where kings and angels dignify God's gift, His Son, in humility. We do not know, we cannot tell What songs were sung, what star light fell, or why the holy mystery stands For so many years in so many lands. We cannot tell, we do not know What stars shone down so long ago, When Mary birthed her own sweet Son And peace and love be came as one.

2<sup>nd</sup> SCRIPTURE READING – Daniel 6:19-27

SERMON

"Hope in the Lion's Den"

A sermon by Greg Allen-Pickett for the first Sunday of Advent

\*HYMN

"Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers"

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\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (From the Presbyterian Confession of 1967)

***In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all. The risen Christ is the Savior of all humanity. Those joined to him by faith are set right with God and commissioned to serve as his reconciling community. Christ is head of this community, the church, which begins with the apostles and continues through all generations.***

## OFFERING

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

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/>

First Presbyterian  
Church



Donation QR  
Code

## OFFERTORY

### “I Wonder as I Wander”

*John Jacob Niles*

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,  
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,  
or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing,  
he surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

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

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,  
how Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
for poor ordinary people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

## \*DOXOLOGY

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

606

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***In this moment of worship, we embrace your presence again, O God. And we offer you our love. In this moment of prayer, we proclaim again your purpose for the world, O Savior. And we offer you our time, talent, and treasure. In this moment of giving, we hear your call again, O Lord. And we offer you ourselves. Use us, all that we have and all that we are, to touch the world with the Advent message: God is hope. God is love. God is with us. Amen.***

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

## THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

***And also, with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

## 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.***

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

\*HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" 82

## \*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE "Comfort, Comfort Now My People (vs. 1) 87

\*POSTLUDE "Recessional in C Major" *Douglas E. Wagner*

*(The postlude serves as a musical blessing for worshipers as they transition out into the world.)*

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

8:30 am: Contemplative Worship in the Chapel with Communion

9:15 Sunday School for all ages

10:30 am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. service will also be broadcast live on KICS 1550 AM Broadcast live on  
Facebook at

[www.facebook.com/fpchastings](http://www.facebook.com/fpchastings)

*(Please note, you do not need a Facebook account to view the service.)*

**THE RADIO BROADCAST** is given in loving memory of David E. Northrop by the Northrop family.

**THE FLOWERS** are given in loving memory of David E. Northrop by the Northrop family.

**NURSERY** Reagan Welsch, Kim Bogan

**ACOLYTES** Student Volunteers

**December Ushers (Team #4)** Captain – George Howard, Susie Graham, Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald, Lori Schroeder, Ted Schroeder

| DECEMBER GREETERS | MEMORIAL ROOM          | NARTHEX                         |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1                 | Kim Hermann            | Pat & Dick Kleiber              |
| 8                 | Paul & Lynette Krieger | Clyde Sachtleben, Carolyn Nowka |
| 15                | Kathy & Curtis Reimer  | Susan Hoff                      |
| 22                | Jenna Jorgensen        | Melissa Davis                   |
| 5:30pm 24         | VOLUNTEERS NEEDED      | VOLUNTEERS NEEDED               |
| 7:30pm 24         | VOLUNTEERS NEEDED      | VOLUNTEERS NEEDED               |
| 29                | Cathy & John Pershing  | Milrae & Harold Korb            |

## POINSETTIAS



Poinsettias may be purchased in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$15 each. Money raised over the cost will be donated to Heartland Health Center.

Heartland Health Center has begun providing medical care at 223 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Hastings. Improving health outcomes for all people in Central Nebraska, Heartland Health Center accepts uninsured, insured, Medicaid, and Medicare patients. Services are paid using a sliding fee scale to reduce costs. Next steps are in the plan to provide dental care and behavioral health.

Your donation makes a difference. *Please return your order form to the church office as soon as possible.*

Poinsettia in memory of:

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Poinsettia in honor of:

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Given by:

I will take my poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve services:  Yes  No

I will leave my poinsettia at the church:  Yes  No

## December Communion Offerings

Giving Tree, Reverse Advent donations, and PC-USA Joy Offering. PC-USA Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers in need and helps develop future church leaders at schools and colleges that are Presbyterian related.

|                       |                |                                    |                            |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 12/1</b>    | 8:30am         | Contemplative Worship Service      | Chapel                     |
|                       |                | <i>No Sunday School</i>            |                            |
|                       | 10am           | HAW Store Open                     | Library                    |
|                       | 10:30am        | Traditional Worship Service        | Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio |
|                       | 11:30am        | HAW Store Open                     | Library                    |
| <b>Monday 12/2</b>    | 9am-11am       | Hastings Pickleball Club           | PEACE Gym                  |
|                       | 1-3pm          | 1 <sup>st</sup> Pres Pickleball    | PEACE Gym                  |
|                       | 1:30pm         | Quilters                           | PEACE Quilting Room        |
|                       | 6-8pm          | Mexican Folkloric Dance            | PEACE NE Classroom         |
|                       | 7-9pm          | Chorus of the Plains               | Choir Room                 |
| <b>Tuesday 12/3</b>   | 10:30am        | Staff Meeting                      | In-Person                  |
|                       | 11:45am        | Habitat for Humanity               | PEACE NW Classroom         |
|                       | 12pm           | Bible Study                        | Anderson Room              |
|                       | 6-7:30pm       | WAM Meeting                        | Anderson Room              |
| <b>Wednesday 12/4</b> | 11am           | PW Coord Team                      |                            |
|                       | 11:45am        | PW Program and Luncheon            | Fellowship Hall            |
|                       | 1-3pm          | Hastings Pickleball Club           | PEACE Gym                  |
|                       | 5-7:15pm       | PreK-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade WNL    | various                    |
|                       | 6:30pm         | Woodcarvers meet                   | Basement                   |
|                       | 6:45pm         | Chancel Choir                      | Choir Room                 |
|                       | 7:30pm         | Chancel Bells                      | Bell Room                  |
| <b>Thursday 12/5</b>  | 12:30pm        | Dulcimer                           | HCMA Room 112              |
|                       | 5:30pm         | Global Mission Committee           | Anderson Room              |
|                       | 6-8pm          | Mexican Folkloric Dance            | PEACE NE Classroom         |
|                       | 7-8pm          | Cub Scouts                         | Scout Room                 |
| <b>Friday 12/6</b>    | 9-11am         | Hastings Pickleball Club           | PEACE Gym                  |
|                       | 10am           | Mahjong                            | Basement Youth Room        |
| <b>Saturday 12/7</b>  | 10am-1pm       | Christmas Craft Event              | Fellowship Hall            |
|                       | 10am-1pm       | HAW Christmas Open House           | Library                    |
| <b>Sunday 12/8</b>    | 8:30am         | Contemplative Worship              | Chapel                     |
|                       | 9:15am-10:15am | Sunday School for all ages         | Various                    |
|                       | 10am           | HAW Store Open                     | Library                    |
|                       | 10:30am        | Traditional Worship Service        | Sanctuary, Facebook, Radio |
|                       | 11:30am        | HAW Store Open                     | Library                    |
|                       | 3pm            | Hastings College Christmas Concert | Sanctuary                  |



**UPCOMING FORUMS**  
**SUNDAYS - 9:15 A.M. - LYDIA ROOM**



**DECEMBER 1**

No Forum - Thanksgiving

**DECEMBER 8**

“Hope and Humility in Jesus’ Birth”

Led by Dan Deffenbaugh

**DECEMBER 15**

“Hope and Humility in Jesus’ Birth”

Led by Dan Deffenbaugh

**Christmas Eve at**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Hastings**

Tuesday, December 24

2:00 p.m. – Service at College View

5:30 p.m. – Family Service in the Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. – Traditional Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. – Contemplative Service in the Sanctuary







**Hastings College  
Christmas Concert**

Sunday, December 8  
3 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Hastings  
Sanctuary



The American Red Cross and First Presbyterian Church are hosting a blood drive on Friday, December 13, from 11am-5pm. There is a critical need for donated blood. Please consider making an appointment to give blood during this drive. To make an appointment go to [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), select the drive at First Presbyterian Church, Hastings, and make your appointment.



**Please pray for**

|                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Elaine Schumacher    | Ashley Ibach                |
| Carter Johnson       | Carl Utley                  |
| Tarah Davis & family | Barry Thomson               |
| Matt Campbell        | Greg Howard                 |
| Janey Nottage-Tacey  | Pam Canady                  |
| Bob Wolf             | Kathy Carrier               |
| KyMani Riek          | family of Eleanor Jorgenson |
| Ken Fisk             | Darcie (McDonald) Brink     |
| Howard Mathews       | David Hauch                 |
| Vicki (Fisk) Nieves  | Monte Malouf                |
| Jim Boeve            | Eli Struss                  |
| Candice Unger        | family of Ken Stein         |
| Nytha & Dave Glass   | John Pershing               |
| Lexi Longshore       | Pat Kleiber                 |



**In memory of**

Ken Stein, who passed  
away on 10/30/24  
Eleanor Jorgenson, who passed  
away on 11/8/24



**JOIN US!**

# Christmas Craft Make-and-Take Event!

BRING YOUR FAMILY TO MAKE A CHRISTMAS CRAFT THAT THEY CAN GIVE AS A GIFT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!  
ENJOY A HOT CHOCOLATE BAR WHILE OUR VOLUNTEERS HELP YOUR CHILDREN CRAFT!

**7 DEC. / 10 A.M.- 1 P.M.**  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
621 N LINCOLN AVE,  
HASTINGS, NE

CRAFTS ARE TAILORED TOWARDS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS, BUT FUN FOR ALL AGES!

FREE WILL DONATION

## Hands Around the World Christmas Open House

**Saturday, December 7**  
**10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Come check out our new items from SERRV, new shipment of coffee, Christmas decorations, etc.

Please remember your purchase also helps our local mission partner United Harvest, to whom we donate monthly.

## While By Their Flocks

A Christmas Musical

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On Sunday, **Dec. 15th** at **10:30am**, the PreK-8th Grade students will be putting on a Christmas musical as part of the morning worship service!

**First Presbyterian Church of Hastings**  
*Sharing the love of Christ from the heart of Hastings since 1873*

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Head of Church:</b> Jesus Christ                           | <b>Ministers:</b> Members of the Church             |
| <b>Senior Pastor:</b> Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett                 | <b>Associate Pastor:</b> Rev. Damen Jensen-Heitmann |
| <b>Organist and Music Director:</b> Linda Vollweiler          | <b>Director of Children &amp; Family</b>            |
| <b>Chancel Choir Director:</b> Dr. Brett Epperson             | <b>Ministries:</b> Rose Koepf                       |
| <b>Chancel Bells &amp; Calvin/Westminster</b>                 | <b>Church Office Administrator:</b> Melissa Davis   |
| <b>Bells Director:</b> Dr. Byron Jensen                       | <b>Facilities Manager:</b> Tony Calhoun             |
| <b>Calvin/Westminster Choir Director:</b> Linda Johnson       | <b>Bookkeeper:</b> Deb Hamburger                    |
| <b>Praise/Alleluia Choir Directors:</b> Tim and Teresa Canady | <b>Scholar in Residence:</b> Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh    |
| <b>Praise/Alleluia Bells Choir Director:</b> Dr. Susan Oliver | <b>Pastor Emeritus:</b> Rev. Dr. Bill Nottage-Tacey |
| <b>Accompanist and Music Coordinator:</b> Mary Plock          |   |