



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
December 24, 2024 – 7:30pm

PRELUDE

“I Wonder as I Wander”
The Cathedral Brass

John Jacob Niles
arr. James Stephenson

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

CHORAL INTROIT

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” - Polish Carol *arr. Paul J. Christiansen*
Chancel Choir, director Brett Epperson

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the Child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the Child is Lord of all, Christ the Child is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the Child is born for you, Christ the Child is born for you. Infant holy, infant lowly, infant holy, infant lowly.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE

Dielman Family

Today we celebrate Christmas Eve and the birth of the Christ Child! We light all of the candles on the advent wreath. First, we lit the candle of hope. Next, we lit the candle of peace. Then, we lit the candle of joy. Finally, we lit the candle of love.

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.

Tonight, in this place, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, full of love for our family and our community, and we give thanks that God came to earth for us!

OPENING PRAYER (Isaiah 9)

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

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.

ANTHEM

“Wonderful Peace”

Gustaf Nordqvist

Peace, peace, wonderful peace,
Peace to the world is given.
Hushed are the angels, so still is the night;
Then in the East shone a heavenly light.
Join in the chorus His praises sing!
Glory to God, to the newly born King.
Peace, peace, wonderful peace.
Peace to the world is given.

Peace, peace, bearer of peace,
All of goodwill receive Him.
Holiest of nights, O most wondrous of days;
Shepherds and kings lift their voices in praise.
Join in the chorus His praises sing! Glory to
God, to the newly born King. Peace, peace,
wonderful peace. Peace to the world is given.

READING 1

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

An angel visits Mary and Joseph to announce that Mary will give birth to Baby Jesus.

*HYMN

“Joy to the World” (vs. 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

HYMN

“Away in a Manger” (vs. 1 & 2)

115

MESSAGE

“The Christmas Light”

Greg Allen-Pickett

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Mary Did You Know”

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene
arr. Thomas H. Graf

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” (vs. 1, 3-4)

*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.

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

*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
arr. Harry Herfoth*

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 29th AND IN THE NEW YEAR
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!

Sunday, December 29
10:30AM – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
(there will be no early service or Sunday School)

Sunday, January 5
8:30AM – Contemplative Worship in the Chapel with Communion
No Sunday School
10:30AM – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion

USHERS Dixie McDonald, Gale McDonald, Lori Schroeder, Ted Schroeder

GREETERS Rose Koeppe, Melissa Davis

ACOLYTES Student Volunteers

Free Organ Concert

First Presbyterian Church

Presents

Gregory Peterson
and
Jon Stender

Sunday,
February 2, 2025
3 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
621 N. Lincoln Ave.
Hastings, NE

All are welcome!





The Sanctuary Poinsettias are given



In memory of Ome & Honor Shoemaker by The Shoemaker/Friedewald family.
In memory of Al & Dorothy Friedewald by The Shoemaker/Friedewald family.
In memory of Gretchen & Hal Lainson by the Hermes, Olsen, Bliss, and Overmiller families.
In memory of Mark Bliss by the Olsen family.
In memory of our parents by Marie & Don Rasmussen.
In memory of Darrel and Roberta Lloyd by Jeni & George Howard.
In memory of George and Marion Howard by Jeni & George Howard.
In memory of Rogene Wenburg by her family.
In memory of Wesley and Joyce Dickenson by Susan (Dickenson) Cole.
In memory of Gretchen Lainson by Lonnie Miner.
In memory of Hal Carrier by Kathy (Adams) Carrier & family, and Jill Kramer.
In memory of Asa, Myrtle, Ida, Judy, and Don Kramer by Jill Kramer.
In memory of our parents Merle & Annabelle Hafer and Boyd & Mary Lou Leymaster by Charlie & Lois Hafer.
In honor of our children and grandchildren given by Charlie & Lois Hafer.
In honor of First Presbyterian Church Pastors and staff by The Nottage-Tacey family.
In honor of Andrea by Sharon & John Brooks.
In memory of parents and grandparents by Jim & Carol Harrenstein, Kristan & Jesse Manske, and Tracy & Kenny Brooks.
In memory of Rogene Wenburg by Justin, Kili, Carter, and Selah Wenburg.
In honor of Neal & Susan Hoff by your grandchildren.
In memory of our parents by Mike & Carol Kleppinger.
In memory of Grandma Julie by Nolan, Clara, and Calvin Soderquist.
In memory of our parents by Doug & Marnie Soderquist.
In memory of my loving parents, Elton & Melba Trehern by Lisa Unger.
In memory of my loving husband Kurt Unger, Billie Unger, and Alice & Arthur Anderson by Lisa Unger.
In memory of Dennis Utter by Kathy and family.
In memory of my granddaughter, Livy Zamora by Jan Bolliger.
In memory of my parents Don & Lucille McHargue by Jan Bolliger.
In memory of Brandon Brader, our parents Dale & Dorothy Brader and Walter & Lee Meyer by Richard & Daveta Brader.
In memory of family and friends by Dale & Sherry Behrens.
In memory of our parents by Colleen & George Adam.

continued



The Sanctuary Poinsettias are given



In honor of First Presbyterian Church Staff by Colleen & George Adam.
In memory of Mark Bliss by Steph, Lauren, Matt, Rosie, and Hal.
In memory of Bob Foote by his family.
In memory of Dean Pickett and our grandparents by The Allen-Pickett family.
In honor of FPC family and FPC staff by the Allen-Pickett family.
In memory of Dr. Robert C. Smith and parents by Sally Smith.
In memory of John A. Harrington by Barbara Harrington and family.
In memory of Ted Van Fossen by his family.
In memory of John W. Hatcher by Sally Hatcher.
In memory of Ryan Struss and our parents by Kathy & Gayle Struss
In honor of Scott & April Struss, Ross & Melissa Struss, and Emily, Evan, Jeremy, and Eli by Kathy & Gayle Struss.
In memory of Walter & Mary Anne Seiler by Jerry & Mary Seiler and family.
In memory of Rev. Alexander & Lois Wacker by Jerry & Mary Seiler and family.
In memory of our parents and grandparents by Melissa Davis and Wade Giesler.
In memory of John & Dixie Kerr, and Cara Kerr Tagg by Rob & Michelle Kerr.
In memory of loved ones by Linda & Richard Johnson.
In honor of Mary Northrop by Linda & Richard Johnson.
In memory of David E. Northrop by the Northrop family.
In memory of Frank W. Northrop by the Northrop family.
In memory of Michele L. Northrop by the Northrop family.
In memory of Nicole by Deb & Byron Jensen.
In honor of Hannah, Damen, Nathan, and Anna by Deb & Byron Jensen.
In memory of Papa and Grandad from the Reimer family.



**Church Office Hours
for
December 25, 2024-January 1, 2025**

December 25-27: Closed

December 30-31: 9:00am-12:00pm

January 1: Closed

Join us for
**Wednesday Night
Live!**

Our mid-week Christian education programs are designed for students in Preschool through 12th grade.

Programming runs from 5:00 - 7:00/15 PM and includes dinner (which family members are encouraged to attend), choir practice, bell choir practice, Bible study, and games.

All are welcome!

No need to RSVP, just show up!

There are no costs to any of our programs.

5-5:30 Dinner

5:30-7:00 PreK/K Centers

5:30-6:30 1st-12th Choir/Bells, 30min each

6:30-7 Bible Study (1st-5th)

6:30-7:15 Youth Group (6th-12th)

For questions, reach out to Rose; rose@fpchastings.org



Winter Sermon Series: Jesus is making waves!

- *January 5:* Luke 2
Boy in the temple
- *January 12:*
Matthew 2 & Luke 3
The Magi and Baptism
- *January 19:* Luke 4
Prophecy of Isaiah
- *January 26:* Luke 5
A great catch &
fishing for people
- *February 2:* Luke 6
Sabbath healing
& preaching
- *February 9:* Luke 7:1-17
Healing & raising from
the dead
- *February 16:* Luke 7:18-35
Jesus affirms John the
baptizer
- *February 23:* Luke 7:36-50
Forgiven at Jesus' feet

Jesus is making waves!

A sermon series on the gospel of Luke

Join us this winter for a sermon series on the gospel of Luke that shows how Jesus was shaking things up. He makes waves with the visit of the Wise Men, his baptism, preaching and teaching, performing miracles, working on the sabbath, healing and raising people from the dead, quoting prophecies, affirming John the Baptist, offering forgiveness to sinners and inviting others to join him.

What can we learn from his example?

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!

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 3-12year olds from 5-7pm for dinner, bible study, and music. We also have an active youth group for 6th-12th graders from 5-7:15pm 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,



Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor