



First Presbyterian
Church of Hastings
Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

PRELUDE

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”
Organist Linda Vollweiler

arr. Varner

WELCOME

Greg Allen-Pickett

CALL TO WORSHIP

Damen Jensen-Heitmann

People of God, the Light of the world is drawing near.

We come with hearts expectant and hopeful.

Darkness will not overcome the radiance of God’s love.

We come to witness the Light that shines in the shadows.

Lift up your eyes—God’s promise is breaking forth!

***We open our lives to the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ. Come,
let us worship God!***

*OPENING HYMN “Light Dawns on a Weary World” (no refrain)

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Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people’s dignity.

Light dawns on a weary world; the promised day of justice comes.

*Joy shouts in a weary world when cold know love’s embrace,
and friends meet face to face.*

Joy shouts in a weary world; the promised dance of laughter comes.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***God of Light and Life, in this holy season we confess that we
sometimes prefer the familiar darkness. We let worry overshadow
hope, conflict diminish peace, weariness silence joy, and fear
restrain love.***

***We turn away from the star that guides, ignore the angels’
invitation, and hesitate to draw near the manger you have prepared
for us.***

Forgive us, O God. Shine your gentle light into every shadowed corner of our hearts. Renew us, restore us, and lead us once more toward Jesus Christ, the Light no darkness can overcome.

SILENT CONFESSION & QUESTION FOR CONTEMPLATION

How can I receive and then share the light of Christ with others?

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news: The true Light has come into the world;

And the darkness has not overcome it.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to walk as children of the light.

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)



Scan to sign-in and let us know you were

SHARING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rose Koepp

While the children are coming down, the congregation will sing: *“This little light of mine.”*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, as we enter into the story through music and scripture, open our hearts and minds to your light. Through the songs we hear and the story read, illuminate us with the hope of the angels’ annunciation, the peace of the guiding star, the joy of Christ’s birth, and the love that draws us toward the manger. Let this cantata speak your truth anew and lead us deeper into the mystery and wonder of the incarnation. Amen.

CANTATA

“The Christmas Light”

By Benjamin Harlan

Chancel Choir, director Robin Koozer – Youth Choir, director Linda Johnson
Chamber Orchestra: David Barnard-Stevens, violin; Jenna Peterson, violin; Marla Rischling, viola; Christa Speed, cello; David Klein, bass; Deb Johnson, flute; Cole Chancellor, oboe; Doyle Hanshaw, percussion; Matthew Rush, percussion; Mary Plock, rehearsal accompanist. Tableau Characters: Jane Marsh, angel; Faith Brader, Mary; Harrison Welsch, Joseph; Moore Family, Magi; Kugel Family, Shepherds/Sheep; Megan Dwyer, construction/stage direction, Narrators: Greg Allen-Pickett, Damen Jensen-Heitmann, Rose Koepp

First Presbyterian
Church



Donation QR
Code

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

“Peaceful Was the Night” Chancel and Youth Choir

Peaceful was the night,
where-in the Prince of Light
began his of reign peace earth.
The winds with wonder whist,
the waters smoothly kist new joys
to the mild ocean; whispering,
whispering while bird of calm sits brooding

on the charmed wave. Peaceful was the night.
Ring out, ye crystal spheres, once bless our
human ears! And let your silver chime move
in melodious time. Ring out, ring out
the Prince of Light. Ring out, ring out His
reign of peace on earth begun, begun!
His reign of peace begun.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Generous God, you have poured out the gift of your light upon the world and invited us to reflect that light in all we do. Receive these offerings: our gifts, our resources, our lives. Bless them and use them so that hope may rise, peace may dwell, joy may flourish, and love may shine through the ministries of your church and the lives of your people. In the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, we pray. 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.

*FINAL CANTATA SONG AND HYMN

Choir sings: “We Bring His Light”
Congregation and Choir sing: “Joy to the World” (vs. 1,4)

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*CHARGE AND BLESSING

May Jesus, who is the true Light, the Light of Christmas, shine through each of us.
Amen.

*POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

arr. Varner

(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 Service in the Sanctuary with the Chancel Handbell Choir

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

<https://www.youtube.com/@FPCHastings>

THE FLOWERS are given by First Presbyterian Church of Hastings.

THE RADIO BROADCAST is given in honor of “my close friend Jill Kramer. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas. Love, Kathy.”

NURSERY Kim Bogan

ACOLYTES James Ellerbee, Ivy Cooper

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

GREETERS

December	Memorial Room	Narthex
14	Cathy & John Pershing	Melissa Davis
21	Paul & Lynette Krieger	Jenna Jorgensen
Christmas Eve 5:30 p.m. 24	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m. 24	Volunteers Needed	Volunteers Needed
28	Milrae & Harold Korb	Volunteer Needed



South Central Nebraska Children’s Chorale Concert
Sunday, December 14
5 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
Sanctuary
All are welcome!



9:45am-11:30am
Third Saturday of each month
at the PEACE Center

United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is a joint ministry with First Presbyterian Church & First United Methodist Church. We provide a food distribution to 400+ families.

- If you need food, please feel free to come. The distribution is on a first-come, first-serve basis effective with the September 2025 distribution.
- If you would like to volunteer for this distribution, please come to the church at 9:30am to help us with the distribution.

First Presbyterian Church of Hastings
THE CHRISTMAS LIGHT ADVENT SERIES



HOPE
IN THE FIERY FURNACE
Daniel 3
11/30/25



PEACE
IN THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES
Ezekiel 37
12/7/25
Children’s Choir & Bells



JOY
IN SEEKING THE LORD
Isaiah 55
12/14/25
Choral Cantata



LOVE
IN THE WORD BECOMING FLESH
John 1
12/21/25
Chancel Bells



During the holidays our First Presbyterian Church family embraces adults who are served by the Assertive Community Treatment program at South Central Behavioral Services in Hastings. The tags on the Giving Tree in the Memorial Room list items that would be appropriate for the person noted on the tag. Please select from the list one or two items as gifts. Then wrap the items, attaching the tag to the gift bundle. If you bring the gifts to place around our Giving Tree by Sunday, December 14, volunteers will be able to deliver them in time for Christmas.

Of the individual recipients, $\frac{3}{4}$ live independently in their community and $\frac{1}{4}$ live with family members. Most of those who live independently have no family network, so our Christmas gifts are the only ones they receive. During the year, many also depend on food banks and donations of non-perishables and clothing.



Ushers and Greeters Needed for Christmas Eve

We are in need of Ushers and Greeters for the 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. services on Christmas Eve. Please let Melissa know if you are able to help out. (melissa@fpchastings.org or 402-462-5147) Thank you!





Christmas With First Presbyterian

<p style="text-align: center;">Cozy Christmas 2:00PM</p> <p>A service of caroling and rejoicing is held at College View. Chancel Choir and Pastors hold a service for residents and their family members.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A Family Christmas 5:30PM</p> <p>A lively service held in the sanctuary features traditional hymns, organ, a child-friendly message, and singing by candlelight.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Traditional Service 7:30PM</p> <p>Held in the sanctuary, this service contains traditional hymns, music by the choir, and singing by candle light.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Holy Night 11:00PM</p> <p>A contemplative service is held in the sanctuary to greet the newborn child with simple music and prayer.</p>

Please pray for

<p>Elaine Schumacher Tarah Davis & family Matt Campbell Janey Nottage-Tacey Bob Wolf KyMani Riek Janelle Baideme family of Jim Harrenstein family of Gayle Struss Carole Pedersen Charles Hermes Tony Glenn Molly Kammerer and family Martha Huffman (Nancy Grams' sister)</p>	<p>Carl Utley Barry Thomson Greg Howard Lexi Longshore family of Dave Henderson Zsuzsanna Fazakas The Unger family Judd Carrier Nytha & Dave Glass Cynthia Sheppard Jordan Elladee Ronhovde Carol Harrenstein Pam Canady Francisco Diaz (Beto)</p>	<p>Carter Johnson Sharon Brooks Alyssa Donley Ken Fisk Jean Stinnette Gary & Connie Whitcomb Sammy Nahorny Mary Lewis Bruce Batterson Willis Horton family of Yvonne Ziemba</p>
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In memory of

Dave Henderson, who passed away on November 2, 2025
Gayle Struss, who passed away on November 7, 2025
Yvonne Ziemba, who passed away on November 13, 2025

Sunday 12/14		NO Contemplative Worship Service	
	9:15am-10:15am	Sunday School for all ages	Various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service w/Christmas Cantata	Sanctuary, YouTube, Radio
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	5pm	South Central Nebraska Children's Chorale Concert	Sanctuary
Monday 12/15	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	1-3pm	First Pres Pickleball	PEACE Gym
	1:30pm	Quilters	PEACE Quilting Room
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-9pm	Chorus of the Plains Rehearsal	Choir Room
Tuesday 12/16	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10:30am	Staff Meeting	In-person
	12pm	Bible Study	Anderson Room
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School & Choir Rooms
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
Wednesday 12/17	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	9:30am	PW Circles 1 & 2	College View
	12pm	Noonday Book Club	Sbbrooks52@gmail.com for link
	1:15pm	PW Circle 3	Fellowship Hall
	5-7pm	PreK-12 th Grade WNL	Various
	5:30pm	Adult Game Night	Fellowship Hall
	6pm	Chancel Bell Rehearsal	Bell Room
	6:30pm	Woodcarvers	Basement
	7pm-7:30pm	Christmas Hymn Sing	Sanctuary
Thursday 12/18	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	12:30pm	Dulcimer	HCMA Room 112
	5:30pm	Hastings Literacy Classes	Middle School & Choir Rooms
	6-9pm	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	6-8pm	Mexican Folkloric Dance	PEACE NE Classroom
	7-8pm	Cub Scouts	Scout Room
Friday 12/19	9-11am	Hastings Pickleball Club	PEACE Gym
	10am-12pm	Mahjong Ladies	Basement Youth Room
Saturday 12/20		United Harvest	
Sunday 12/21	8:30am	Contemplative Worship Service	Chapel
	9:15am	Sunday School for all ages	various
	10am	HAW Store Open	Library
	10:30am	Traditional Worship Service	Sanctuary, Radio, YouTube
	11:30am	HAW Store Open	Library
	7pm	Blue Christmas Service	Sanctuary



Upcoming Forum

"Awaited Messiah"

is a Forum series that will be led by our Scholar in Residence, Dr. Dan Deffenbaugh. Dan will examine how prophecy connects to Jesus. Classes will be at 9:15 a.m. on Dec. 7th, and 21st.

A Free Tax Preparation Clinic will be taking place in Hastings for several days in February and March to help families complete their taxes, and **we need volunteer Tax Preparers!** No experience is needed, and you will receive training to help people complete simple returns. This is a rewarding opportunity to volunteer for over one or several days to help families receive Tax Credits they are eligible for. We are looking for Volunteers to be Greeters as well! Go to <https://tcan.unl.edu/> to learn more and to sign up.

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 United Harvest.

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

Poinsettia in memory of _____

Poinsettia in honor
of _____

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

Dear Members and Friends of FPC,

Thank you for your generous contributions. Many of you use investments for the benefit of the church. Sometimes these checks come to the church without the contributor's name. Getting these checks credited to the appropriate contributor is very important, but without a name, it is impossible. When you request your gift be sent to the church, please let Melissa or me know that it is on its way.

Thank you,
Deb Hamburger
Finance Administrator

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
Interim Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Robin Koozer
Chancel Bells & Youth Bells
Director: Dr. Byron Jensen
Youth Choir Director: Linda Johnson
Children Choir Director: Teresa Canady
Children 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