

PRELUDE

“Variations on an English Tune”
The Cathedral Brass

Wilfred Bob Roberts

WELCOME

Pastor Greg

*HYMN AND PROCESSION OF ADVENT BANNER

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Verses 1, 6 & 7)
Organist Linda Vollweiler

88

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH AND CHRIST CANDLE

Chase 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 not to 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 not to be afraid for, they would meet the Christ child.

They traveled to the manger, saw the baby Jesus and were transformed!

Tonight, in this place, we celebrate the birth of Jesus full of love for our families and our community. We give thanks that God came to earth for us and pray for our own transformation!

*HYMN

“Light Dawns on a Weary World” (vs. 1-2, no refrain)

79

OPENING PRAYER (Isaiah 9)

Director of Christian Education Rose Koepp

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. Transform us so that 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)

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, and laid in a manger.

HYMN

“Away in a Manger”

115

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 have heard and seen!

*HYMN

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

128

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

“The World Shifted and So Did They”

Greg Allen-Pickett and Rose Koepp

*Following the message, the children who will sing in the choir can line up by the piano.
All other children can return to their grown-ups in the pews.*

ANTHEM

“Mary Rocking, Gently Rocking”
Children & Youth Choir, directors Linda Johnson & Teresa Canady

arr. Hal H. Hopson

Mary rocking, gently rocking, rocking Jesus,
Holy Child.
Angels singing, sweetly singing: Glory be to
God on high.
Holy Jesus, born to save us, in your mother's
arms now rest.
Mary rocking, gently rocking, rocking Jesus,
Holy Child.

Wise men traveling, stately traveling, traveling
on to find the child.
Bright star shining, brightly shining, shining
forth to guide the way.
Holy Jesus, born to save us, in your mother's
arms now rest.
Wise men traveling, stately traveling, traveling
on to find the child.

Shepherds running, swiftly running, running
on to Bethlehem town.
Bright star shining, brightly shining, shining
forth to show the way.
Holy Jesus, born to save us, in your mother's
arms now rest.
Shepherds running, swiftly running, running
on to Bethlehem town.



OFFERING

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.

OFFERTORY

“Mary Did You Know?”
Cathedral Brass

arr. Graf

*DOXOLOGY

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (vs. 1, 3-4)

133

*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 “For Unto Us a Child Is Born” *Handel/arr. Adler*

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 28th AND IN THE NEW YEAR
INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS!

Sunday, December 28

10:30AM – Worship in the Fellowship Hall with a light breakfast
(there will be no early service or Sunday School)

Sunday, January 4

8:30AM – Contemplative Worship in the Chapel with Communion
NO Sunday School

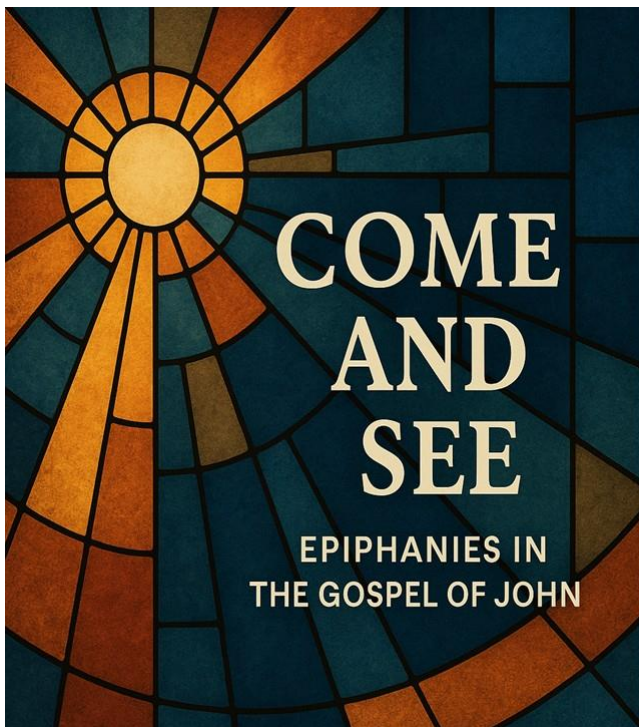
10:30AM – Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion

USHERS Andrew Barrows, Jessica Meeske, Todd Pankratz, Chuck Hastings

GREETERS Memorial Room-Welsch family, Narthex-Daveta & Richard Brader

ACOLYTES Student Volunteers





Six-week Epiphany series that traces a journey of awakening, revelation, and transformation through key stories in the Gospel of John.

- January 11: John 2 – Grace poured out
- January 18: John 2 – A Zeal for Justice
- January 25: John 3 – The Spirit Enters
- February 1 – John 4 – Seen and Known
- February 8 – John 4-5 – Rise and Walk
- February 15 – John 9 – Open eyes & Hearts

Jens Korndörfer, Organ

Concert: Saturday, January 24 @ 3:00 pm
Worship: Sunday, January 25 @ 10:30 am



Dr. Jens Korndörfer is the Bowden Professor of Music and Associate Professor of Organ at [Baylor University](#) in El Paso, Texas and is regularly invited to perform and teach at prestigious venues and festivals around the world. Praised as “a virtuoso in the grand Romantic tradition” who creates “performances that are deeply musically satisfying as well as exciting” (The American Organist).

Korndörfer’s performances include Davies Symphony Hall, the Cadet Chapel in West Point, Duke University Chapel, Cathedral-Basilica, Montreal Bach Festival, Cathedrals in Washington, Berlin, Bremen, Paris, Salzburg, Oslo, and Moscow, Westminster, the Royal Chapel in Versailles, the Frauenkirche in Dresden.



The Sanctuary Poinsettias are given



In memory of our Parents Merle & Annabelle Hafer and Boyd & Mary Lou Leymaster given by Charlie & Lois Hafer.

In honor of our Children and Grandchildren given by Charlie & Lois Hafer.

In memory of David Schawang given by Janet Schawang, Kim Smith, Kevin Schawang and families.

In memory of Gretchen & Hal Lainson given by the Hermes, Olsen, Bliss, and Overmiller families.

In memory of Patricia Kleiber Given by Richard Kleiber.

In memory of Ryan Struss given by the Struss family.

In memory of Gayle Struss given by the Struss family.

In honor of Scott, April, Ross, Melissa, Emily, Evan, Jeremy, and Eli given by Kathy Struss.

In memory of Frank Georgiana given by family.

In memory of our Parents given by Colleen & George Adam.

In honor of FPC Staff given by Colleen & George Adam.

In memory of Dennis Utter given by Kathy and family.

In memory of Mark Bliss given by Mary, Jorn, Chris, and Erica Olsen.

In memory of Ome & Honor Shoemaker given by the Shoemaker/Friedewald family.

In memory of Alfred & Dorothy Friedewald given by the Shoemaker/Friedewald family.

In memory of Ken Stein given by the Stein, Davis, and Borrell families.

In memory of Lyle Davis given by the Stein, Davis, and Borrell families.

In memory of Della Stein given by the Stein, Davis, and Borrell families.

In memory of D.W. (Monte) Malouf and Virginia Malouf given by Monte Malouf Jr. and family.

In memory of Wilbert (Bud) Streck and Shirley Streck given by Monte Malouf Jr. and family.

In honor of Susan & Neal Hoff given by your Grandchildren.

In honor of Mary M. Northrop given by John M. Northrop.

In memory of David E. Northrop given by the Northrop family.

In memory of Frank W. Northrop given by the Northrop family.

In memory of Michele L. Northrop given by the Northrop family.

In memory of Grandma Julie Soderquist given by Nolan, Clara, and Calvin.

In memory of our parents given by Doug & Marnie Soderquist.

In memory of Rogene Wenburg given by Justin, Kili, Carter, and Selah Wenburg.

In memory of John W. Hatcher given by Sally D. Hatcher.

Continued



The Sanctuary Poinsettias are given



In memory of Brandon Brader given by Dick & Daveta Brader.

In memory of our parents given by Dick & Daveta Brader.

In honor of the Allen-Pickett family given by Cindy Pickett.

In memory of Parents & Grandparents given by Carol Harrenstein, Kristan & Jesse Manske, and Tracy, Kenny, and Adam Brooks.

In memory of Jim Harrenstein given by Carol Harrenstein, Kristan & Jesse Manske, and Tracy, Kenny, and Adam Brooks.

In honor of Andrea given by John & Sharon Brooks.

In honor of our Children given by Don & Marie Rasmussen.

In memory of our Parents given by Linda & Richard Johnson.

In memory of Mark Bliss given by Steph, Lauren, Matt, Rosie, Hal, & Bliss.

In honor of Margaret & Charles Hermes given by the Hermes, Bliss, and Overmiller families.

In memory of Nicole Jensen given by Byron & Deb Jensen.

In memory of our Parents given by Byron & Deb Jensen.

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

A Note of Welcome and Invitation from Pastor Greg and the First Presbyterian Church Family:

Thank you for joining us for Christmas Eve worship at First Presbyterian Church of Hastings! Whether you are here every Sunday, occasionally throughout the year, or stepping into this space for the very first time, we are grateful for your presence. **Tonight, we gather as one community** to celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ's birth, and we hope you feel the warmth, joy, and hospitality of this church family.

Our congregation is deeply committed to **serving our neighbors in Hastings**. We partner locally through ministries like the United Harvest Mobile Food Pantry, Open Table, and by supporting organizations such as Habitat for Humanity, enCourage Advocacy Center, Revive Ministries, Crossroads Rescue Mission, and many others. Each summer we host Vacation Bible School programs for the whole community. These ministries open doors for you to experience Christ's love in action and **discover where God is moving in our city**.

We also engage in **national and global mission through annual mission trips**. These journeys offer meaningful opportunities to serve others, build relationships, and witness firsthand the ways God is at work around the world.

We would love to welcome you back for **worship on Sunday mornings**. At 8:30 a.m., we offer a contemplative service in our chapel with communion every week. At 10:30 a.m., join us in the sanctuary for a traditional service featuring our Chancel Choir, handbell choirs, children and youth choirs, and organ music. In both services, you will encounter engaging, biblically grounded preaching.

Because we believe **faith shapes both heart and mind**, we offer vibrant learning opportunities as well. **Sunday School for all ages meets at 9:15 a.m.**, with classes that explore Scripture and invite meaningful conversation. During the week, **children ages 3–18 are invited to Wednesday Night Live from 5–7 p.m. for dinner, Bible study, and music**. **Adults can join Bible and book studies on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at noon**.

If you **enjoy making music**, there is a place for you here! Our Chancel Choir, handbell choirs, and children's and youth ensembles are always eager to welcome new participants.

At First Presbyterian Church of Hastings, **we strive to be a community of hope**: a place where hope is proclaimed, practiced, and shared. We invite you **to engage your heart, hands, and mind** as we follow Christ together and serve Hastings and the world God loves.

If you would like to learn more or get involved, speak with any of our staff or volunteers, or feel free to email me at greg@fpchastings.org

In Christ,



Rev. Greg Allen-Pickett, Senior Pastor