

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 26, 2021

PRELUDE

Joy to the World
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Burkhardt

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

CALL TO WORSHIP

I will proclaim the gracious deeds of God;

the steadfast love of the Lord is great.

Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord,

the glory of God's people and a light to all.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;

let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN 134:** *Joy to the World*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Because we have passed through the waters of baptism,

we dare to bare our souls before God and reveal the bitterness that dwells in our hearts.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In Jesus Christ God saves us, not because of any good works that we have done, but according to God's mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. People of God, rejoice!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:1-18

CAROL SING-ALONG: *Please be prepared to ask for a favorite Christmas Carol, by hymn number. Christmas Carols start about hymn 82 through 160.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** Taken from the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*

Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man, in two distinct natures, and one Person forever.

How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

Christ, the Son of God, became man, by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation. Amen.

PRAYER, ending with 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 113:** *Angels We have Heard on High*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

arr. Ashdown



December 26, 2021

Covenant Of Prayer: Jennifer; Hannah; Bella Garcia; those who are experiencing homelessness in our community; and our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya.

First Sunday of Christmas: Today's message portion of our worship service will be a sing-along of Christmas Carols. This will be a chance to ask for your favorite carols from our hymnal to be sung. **So, be prepared to ask for your favorites!**

Christmas Joy Offering: This offering supports the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, honoring the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families during times of critical financial need. It also supports Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, and leadership receiving much-needed assistance while they discover and pursue their professional goals. Christmas Joy envelopes may be found in the pew racks, as well as the Welcome Info Kiosk, or use the online giving portal found on the church website. This offering will be collected through the end of December.

Time to "UnDeck the Halls!" Please stay following worship on Sunday, January 9 to help put away the Christmas trees, advent wreath, garlands, etc. that we used during the season. Members of the Worship Committee will be on hand to help direct volunteers. "Many hands make for light work!"

2021 Year End Giving: Please have all contributions intended for the 2021 giving year turned in to the church office by Tuesday, January 4. Any contributions received after that date will be recorded on your 2022 giving record. If you would like to know the balance of your 2021 pledge, please email Jan Lundgren at jlundgren@firstpresfargo.org.

Helping a Church Family: Jennifer Forthun had a medical emergency and continues to need care. The church has set up a fund in her name to help defray expenses for her and her family. You may send donations to the church or through our website. Note "Jennifer" in the memo. A CaringBridge site has been set up to receive updates on her progress. Moving forward, there will also be opportunities to help in other ways. Visit Jennifer's Site: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jenniferforthun>.

Christ the King Banner: Alleluia! This banner celebrates Christ the King. It is completely done in white and gold. The Alpha at the top and the Omega at the bottom symbolize the eternal reign of Jesus Christ. The star beneath the Alpha is a symbol of the Chi Rho, the first two letters of the Greek word Christos. The large X shaped cross in the center is the St. Andrew's cross. The shape stands for Christ's death, resurrection, life and ministry, and coming in glory. A butterfly is hidden in the cross and represents resurrection—final victory over death. Rays of light shine downward to us and symbolize Christ, the light of the world.

Attention Snow Birds: Please make sure you notify the office of your winter address **along with the start and end date** for using that address. We need all of that info to keep the system (and thus, the communication) in working order. Most items are mailed at special non-profit rates and those items are not forwarded even if you have a forward order at the post office. Your help keeps the lines of communication open and we thank you for helping us with this task.

ManUP: ManUP, a men's Bible study, continues its monthly study on **January 11 at 6:45 am via ZOOM**. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, October-May. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this year examines the Epistle to the Hebrews. A copy of the study guide can be obtained at [Hebrews: An Open Door to God | Presbyterian Mission Agency](#) or you can request a copy and ask for a Zoom invitation from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

PW News: Happy New Year! PW's annual pledge drive has kicked off with letters sent to all women of the congregation. Because our funds are raised through pledges, we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting us as we support our Presbytery and local missions.

PW Board meets via ZOOM on January 11 at 10:00 am. There is no General Meeting this month. Also, via **ZOOM, the PW Bible Study, held Tuesday, January 18 at 2:00 pm**, will focus on Lesson 5, "Ruth and Redemption," led by Pastor Holtey. Even though we'd like to meet in person, this is an excellent way to study and those who ZOOM in, enjoy the lesson.

Our YWCA representative has posted a sign on our bulletin board, listing the items we are focusing on each month. This month the focus will be Laundry/Dishwasher pods. These can be placed in the YWCA bin in the coat room. We welcome any item from the urgent needs list of the YWCA at any time, as well as pillows.

Photo Updates: Take a new photo for this year's holiday cards or just have an updated picture we can use for the directory? If so, please email a copy to Monica in the office at mgelinske@firstpresfargo.org, or mail a hard copy to the office to be scanned.

A Peek @ Next Week: Communion will be served. Enjoy the special music of a piano duet.

Hearing devices and large print copies of today's hymns are available, please ask an usher for assistance.

Nursery: Staff will be present **beginning at 9:15** for infants-3 years, in the nursery complex on the 1st floor.

Activity Bags for Children: Fun-filled tote bags are located at both doors.

Restrooms: Restrooms are located in the Gathering Space and on the lower level.

Prayer Request Cards: Cards are in pew racks for your use. Prayers will be committed to God along with the other offerings and also lifted up in prayer by the staff.

Peace Candles: The candle burning on the chancel symbolizes peace. We ask guests to take a candle back to your church as a gift from us. Peace candles can be found at the Welcome Center, near the west doors.

Wi-Fi: Wi-Fi is available throughout the church. (password: community650)

FPC Officers

Session: Kim Carter, Tom Clusiau, Lisa Edison-Smith, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Bruce Furness, Dick Henderson, Ryan Johnston, Kurt Kooyer, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Scott Swanholm, Paula Thomas, and Kevin Tobosa, Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens.

Deacons: Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Andrea Smith, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens.

Treasurer: Sherri Stern

Church Staff

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Head of Staff, Associate Pastor*
Sally Harmon-*Music Coordinator & Organist*

Bryan Poyzer-*Adult Choir Director*

Jan Lundgren-*Business Manager*

Monica Gelinske-*Administrative Assistant*

Penny Andrist-*Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Kayla Bones-*Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinator*

Rick Fiebiger-*Facilities Manager*

Drew Brovold-*Custodian*

All staff emails are:

(first initial and last name of person)[@firstpresfargo.org](mailto:community@firstpresfargo.org)

L: Live Stream Option, H: Hybrid, Z: Zoom

Sunday, December 26

No Confirmation

Monday, December 27

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 28

8:30 Bulletin Articles Due

Wednesday, December 29

No Wednesday Night Activities

Thursday, December 30 *No Church Events*

Friday, December 31: New Years Eve

Saturday, January 1: New Years Day

No Church Events

Sunday, January 2

No Sunday School for All

10:30 Worship Service (L)

No Confirmation

Monday, January 3

Office Closed

For Your Information

December 19 Worship Attendance:

174 in person, 32 Livestreamed

Contributions Received: \$47,284.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

M-TH, 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

FPC Financial Summary

November 2021 - General Fund Only

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income	\$707,773	\$695,396	\$12,377	\$779,600
Expense	684,979	730,672	-\$45,693	798,774
Net/Shortfall	\$22,794	-\$35,276	\$58,070	-\$19,174