



# Merry Christmas

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FARGO, ND

DECEMBER 25, 2022 | LESSONS & CAROLS

*The Session and members of First Presbyterian Church Fargo extend a sincere welcome to you. We are grateful for your presence today! We welcome all persons regardless of race, nationality, disability, gender or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services and to serve as an officer of the church.*

*Everyone is invited for coffee and fellowship in the Gathering Space after worship.*

*We recycle! If you are not taking your bulletin, please drop it in the blue bin at the door as you leave.*

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **We Gather in Christ**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

On this day, Gracious Lord, you come to us as Word, as light, as flesh. Teach us to know you so well that our lives may befriend this world you have made, in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **PRELUDE**

*Variations on " 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime "* arrs. Copes/Manz  
Sally Harmon, organist

### **WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is born!

**Alleluia!**

Jesus is among us!

**Alleluia!**

Shout with joy, give thanks, and sing!

**Christ is born!**

### **\*CAROL #114**

*Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy Incarnate God, by the light of your goodness and mercy, our failing to see your true light is clear: we have not loved you, we have not loved our neighbors, we have not loved ourselves. Our feet have not brought good news to the poor nor have our voices defended Earth and its creatures and plants. Forgive us, blind us with your holy honesty, so that we may more clearly see your will, and walk with sure steps into the way of wholeness and peace. Amen.**

**\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**\*RESPONSE** *Angels We have Heard on High (Refrain)*  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **The Word**

**LESSON**

*Genesis 3:8-13, 19*

**CAROL #121**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*(You may remain seated)*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

**LESSON**

*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*O Holy Night*

arr. Lojeski

Claudia Hansen, handbell solo; Sally Harmon, piano

**LESSON**

*Luke 2:8-16*

*Whirl Story Bible pg. 184*

**\*CAROL #113**

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**LESSON**

*Matthew 2:1-11*

**CAROL #145:**

*What Child Is This?*

*(You may remain seated)*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high. The virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

**LESSON**

*John 1:1-14*

*Whirl Story Bible pg. 170*

**\*CAROL #122**

*Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

**LESSON**

*John 8:12-20*

**\*CAROL #147**

*The First Nowell (vs. 1-2, 5-6)*

The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]

**\*PROFESSION OF FAITH**

The Heidelberg Catechism  
adapted from questions 35 & 36

**Jesus “was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary” which means, that the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David’s true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin. For this reason, the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit me because Christ is my mediator and, in God’s sight, he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness the sinfulness in which I was conceived.**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

One: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

**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.**

# Responding to the Word



Use the QR code to access the secure giving portal on our website!

**OFFERING** Use the QR code to access the secure giving portal on our website!

**DID YOU KNOW?** If you are 72 or over you generally must withdraw an amount from your retirement accounts every year (the required minimum distribution). This amount can be paid directly to a charity (like the church). Amounts distributed this way count towards the minimum distribution and are excluded from your taxable income. Contact the church for more details.

**OFFERTORY** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* arr. Sedio  
Sally Harmon, organ

## \*RESPONSE

*Love Has Come!*



Love has come and nev-er will leave us! Love is life ev-er - last-ing and free.



Love is Je-sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing.



Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high! \_\_\_\_

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### Bearing the Word into the World

#### \*CAROL 134

*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

*Two Settings of "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"* arrs. Eggert/Manz

## The poinsettias adorning our Sanctuary today have been given by...

Name	Intention
The Ahlin Family	In memory of Chester & Myrna Ahlin, L.J. & Virginia Boekelheide
Ed & Marion Anderson	In memory of parents, brothers & sisters
Katie Bigwood	In memory of Mr. Patrick Moore
Tom & Sarah Bigwood	In memory of Robert & Margaret Norman, Nolia & Lawrence Keltner, Edith & Thomas Bigwood
Steve & Gay Blazek	In memory of Jill Blazek
Marlys K. Borkhuis	In memory of parents, Russel & Marjorie Borkhuis, and brother, Roger Borkhuis
Toby & Paula Christensen	To the glory of God
Candice Cox	In memory of Tom & Louise Cox, Armand & Elaine Bauer, Graham Jordan
Kathy Fox Family, Tom & Georgia Dawson	In memory of Bob, Edith, and Chuck Dawson
Steve & Vicki Dawson Family	In memory of Jacob Dawson
Mark and Ruth DeRuyter	In honor of daughters: Laura & Will Porter, Rebecca & Scott Nasson
Patricia, David, Jane Filipi	In memory of Glenn Filipi, John & Anita Borgman, Dan & Gerda Filipi
Nancy Froelich	In memory of Douglas Froelich
Bruce & Lorraine Furness	In honor of our children & grandchildren; In memory of Ross & Peg Robson, Sandy Mathew, Joel & Vivian Broberg, Loran Guenther, Oscar & Jean Lindgren, Edith Dawson, Our parents
Linda Morse Haak & Stephanie Morse Damman	In memory of Stephen I Morse; In honor of Monna Rae Morse
Tim, Linda, and Taaren Haak, Leah & Andrew Beck	In memory of Stephen I Morse, Elmer & Phyllis Haak; In honor of Monna Rae Morse
David & Sally Harmon Family	In memory of Paul Gulbrandson, Do & Tod Gunkelman
Mary & George Haugo	In memory of Bud & Blanche Davenport; In honor of Ward & Irene Davenport
Bobbie Holman	In memory of Mark Holman, Robert Aspelund, Jim Rosendahl, Oliver & Inez Holman
Ted & Barb Kessel	In honor of our family
Richard & Vicki Laraway	In memory of Harry & Jeane Mason, Harold Laraway
Donald Larew	In memory of Andrew & Mildred M. Larew, Rev. P. Hewison Pollock
Autumn Larson	To the glory of God
Gwen Martin	In memory of Phil Martin
Prakash & Jane Mathew	In memory of Sandy Mathew, Ross & Peg Robson
Bruce & AnneMarie Turk Maylath	In memory of Clyde & Carroll Maylath, Frank & Jayne Turk

Jill Post	In memory of Milton Severson and Dr. & Mrs. Richard Post; In honor of Ardis Severson
Georgia Resell & Family	In memory of John & Jennifer Resell; In honor of Adolph & Mae Blomquist, John & Elizabeth Resell
David & Candy Shultz	In memory of Ila & Harvey Coon, Jean & Gerry Shultz
Joseph & Leanne Stanley	In memory of our parents, brothers, and sister
Paula, Kathleen, & Kevin Thomas	In memory of Mack Thomas, Robert & Maxine Yates
Debbie & Bob Tight	In memory of Abbie & Bob Peterson, Tom Tight, Marjorie & Fred Tight
Jerri, Bob, Jodi, and Ginny Twete	In memory of Dave Twete
Tom & Sue Van Osdel	In memory of our parents
Connie & Mark Weed	In memory of Ryan & Michael Weed
Jeff & Amy Wilkens	To the glory of God; In memory of our parents & grandparents
Andrew & McKenzie Zuther	In honor of Grandma & Grandpa Joe

*A poinsettia was painted live during our Hanging of the Greens service on the first Sunday of Advent.  
Proceeds from this sale will go to the Vets Giving Tree. You can bid online below.*

