



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.*

February 18, 2024

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Flute Fantasia in D minor

Georg Philipp Telemann

Russell Romine, flute

Sonata in A Op. 2 No 2, II. Largo appassionato

Beethoven

Russell Romine, piano

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Grant us faith to trust in your guidance even when our efforts seem fruitless. Help us cast our nets of uncertainty into the depths of your wisdom, knowing that you are the source of all abundance. Just as you filled Peter's nets to overflowing, fill our lives with your grace and blessings. Amen.



CALL TO WORSHIP

Come in.

Feel your feet on the floor.

Settle your worries.

Take a deep breath.

Dust the cobwebs from your ears.

Relax the tension in your jaw, for Christ is here.

God never stops seeking us.

We have been found.

Let us find God in return.

Let us worship the God of deep waters.

Let us worship God!



HYMN 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.



CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Loving God, You call us by name. You join us in the deep waters of life. You invite us to drop our nets and follow you, and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter. Over and over again, we are surprised to find you in our midst. Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own. Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves. Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat. Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you, for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray. Amen.



RESPONSE 595

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My
heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly Lord!



PASSING OF THE PEACE

GIFT OF MUSIC

You Do Not Walk Alone

Elaine Hagenberg

Sanctuary Choir; Shawn Neisen, director; Russell Romine, piano

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 25:1-10, pp. 492

Jen Johnston, reader

Luke 5:1-11, pp. 937

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Jesus Sought Me

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

HYMN 726

Will you come and follow me

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in a God of abundance—
a God who sees possibilities where I cannot,
and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.

I believe in a God who comforts—
a God who says, “Do not be afraid;”
a God who joins me in life's deep waters.

I believe in a God who invites—
a God who says, “Follow me,”
and, “You will be fishers of people.”

I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—
a God of second chances and boundless mercy;
a God who calls us by name.



River of Grace | Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing

We believe.
Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray.
Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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



OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY

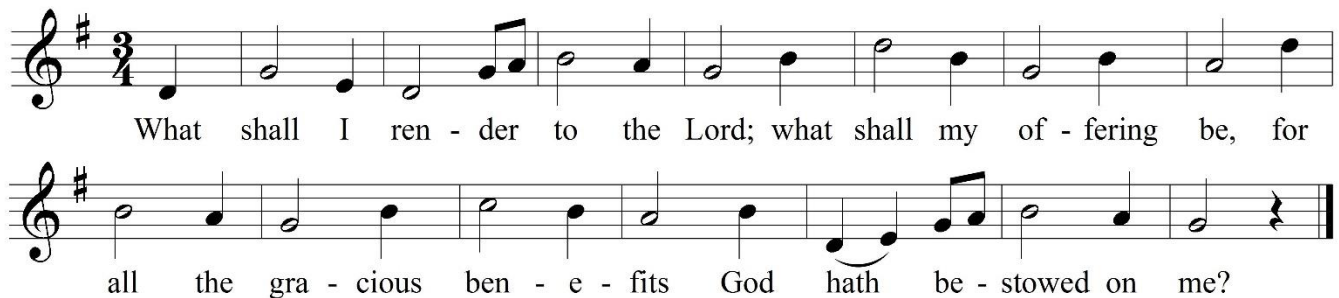
Songs Without Words
Andy Froelich, piano

Felix Mendelssohn



RESPONSE

What Shall I Render to the Lord



What shall I ren - der to the Lord; what shall my of - fering be, for
all the gra - cious ben - e - fits God hath be - stowed on me?



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World



WORDS TO WANDER BY

All This Time

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

I put my headphones in.
I walk quickly.
I look toward the ground.
I create one million barriers
of independence,
but still God seeks after me.
God leans a rainbow over the sky.
God sends sun after the rain.
God blankets the earth with wildflowers.
God allows music to carry
and laughter to rise,
all so that I might notice.

And when I do notice,
the unfurling that begins in my soul
is slow and holy and burning.
I am not alone.
God has been chasing after me
all this time.



HYMN 720

Jesus Calls Us

Jesus calls us: o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us: by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thy obedience, serve and love thee best of all.



BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Prelude in G Major, WTC 1, BWV 860
Russell Romine, piano

J.S. Bach

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FARGO



First Sunday of Lent

February 18th, 2024

Pilgrimage offerings during Lent: *Finding Freedom through Forgiveness* begins on Monday, Feb. 12. Explore practices that increase your capacity to forgive yourself and others. Meet at Riverview Place or join by ZOOM from 6:00-7:30 pm. Centering Prayer begins on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 12:15-12:45 pm in the Jennie Roberts Room. Find a moment of stillness in your day. Contact Kit O'Neill for info and ZOOM link.

Holden Evening Prayer Services



Every Wednesday in Lent, starting February 21st, join us from 7:05pm to 7:30pm in the Jennie Roberts Room for Holden Evening Prayer.

Brief reflections will be on poetry and art of the season, *Wandering Heart: Figuring out faith with Peter*. Come and join us in the Jennie Roberts Room for this time of Lenten devotion.

Have you paid your Per Capita?: Each year our congregation pays a per capita contribution to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the PC (USA) connect, participate, and share in the work of the wider church. Individuals and families may not be aware that the per capita donation is separate from pledge donations. To calculate your total per capita, multiply \$50 by each church member in your household and then take a moment to pay online at www.firstpresfargo.org/give using the Per Capita fund, or you can mail a check to the church office.

Covenant of Prayer: Sherri Stern, who is recovering from shoulder surgery; Dick Anderson (Bill Anderson's grandfather).

Find a moment of stillness in your day


Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a form of silent prayer that quiets the mind and focuses attention on the presence and action of the Holy Spirit within.

Thursdays in Lent,
12:15-12:45 in the
Jennie Roberts Room

All are welcome.
No experience necessary.

Sponsored by The Pilgrimage and Presentation Prayer Center



Directory Updates: The office is working on putting out a Hard Copy Directory soon. We need **your** help to make sure everything is up-to-date! If you have any information that needs to be changed (address, phone number, email, etc.), please contact Casey in the office. You can also submit a new photo, either by email to clemier@firstpresfargo.org, or you can bring a physical picture in to the office. Thank you to those who have already submitted updates of information or new pictures, your punctuality is greatly appreciated!



Youth Ski Trip

Andes Tower Hills

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

\$20

RSVP BY FEB 21

Hearing devices, as well as **large print copies of today's bulletins and 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: Mindy Argall, Abi Carlson, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Tetteh Dottey, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Jeff Wilkens, and Steve Wonderlich. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, David Hoffman, Jane Mathew (moderator), Donna Rummens, Wayne Sander, Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens. **Church Treasurer:** Sherri Stern.

Church Staff

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood-*Head of Staff, Pastor*
The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Associate Pastor*
The Rev. Daniel Billings-*Parish Associate*
The Rev. Cathie Bishop-*Parish Associate*
Sally Harmon-*Organist*
Pam Burns-*Music Ministry Coordinator*
Shawn Neisen-*Adult Choir Director*
Penny Andrist-*Children's Ministry Coordinator*
Kayla Bones-*Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinator*
Jan Lundgren-*Business Manager*
Casey LeMier- *Communications & Admin Assistant*
Rick Fiebiger-*Facilities Manager*
Drew Brovold-*Custodian*

**Staff emails are: (first initial and last name of person)
@firstpresfargo.org**

L: Live Stream Option, H: Hybrid, Z: Zoom
Times shown in italics indicate am.

Sunday, February 18

11:30 Fellowship

11:30 EduCon Committee Meeting

Monday, February 19

Office Closed

6:30 Session Meeting with Confirmands

Tuesday, February 20

9:30 PW Circles

1:00 PW Circle

Wednesday, February 21

5:00 Wednesday Activities Dinner

5:00 Lay Preacher Seminar

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choir Rehearsals

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:05 Holden Evening Prayer

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 22

12:15 Centering Prayer

5:30 Nurturing Families

Friday, February 23

12:00 Messenger Deadline

Saturday, February 24

No Church Events

Sunday, February 25

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

Reminder: Use the QR code found in the bulletin to access the secure giving portal on our website. Also, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram!

For Your Information

February 11 Attendance: 240

195 in person

45 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$18,400.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

M-TH, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

650 2nd Ave. N.
Fargo, ND 58102