



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*preach, teach, heal, & serve*

*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.*

**November 12, 2023**

**We Gather in Christ**

**PRELUDE**

*The Soul of a Tree*

Amy F. Bernon

Select members of MSUM Concert Choir;  
Michael Johnson, conductor; Sally Harmon, piano

**WELCOME**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*Loving God, you are our hope and our salvation. In our baptism we are given a new life. Help us have faith. Keep us watchful. Prepare us for the future you promise in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**✧ CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

People of God: the Lord has done marvelous things.

**We will teach our children all that God has done**

so they may live in hope,

**so they may live in peace,**

so they may live in joy.

**Let us worship God.**

**✧ HYMN 645** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (vs 1 & 3)*

Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation,  
the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul is filled,

and every faithless murmur stilled:

to God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away, but, through all grief distressing,  
an ever-present help and stay, our peace and joy and blessing,  
as with a mother's tender hand

God gently leads the chosen band:  
to God all praise and glory!

✦ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**Holy and gracious God, you are all light and wonder and glory. You are our strength and our delight; you give us all we need to live. Yet we are distracted by all that glitters, continually grasping for more. Rather than trusting in your provision, we chase after our own happiness. Forgive us, Lord, and turn us back to you. Overwhelm us with your goodness and cover us with grace, for we know that you are the source of life, the fount of all that is good. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.**

✦ **RESPONSE 48**

*Rain Down*

Musical notation for the hymn 'Rain Down'. It consists of two staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes.

Rain down; rain down; rain down your love on your peo - ple.  
Rain down; rain down; rain down your love, God of life. \_\_\_\_\_

✦ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Kačena divoká*

Leoš Janáček

Select members of MSUM Concert Choir

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Penny Andrist

**The Word**

**SCRIPTURE**

*Matthew 25:1-13, pp. 903*

Jaden Argall, reader

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

*Whirl Story Bible pg. 262*

**SERMON**

*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed*

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Jam!*

Tracy Wong

Select members of MSUM Concert Choir

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

**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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**HYMN OF APPROACH 525**

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

Second Sunday Band

Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)

let us break bread together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees,

with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)

let us drink wine together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees,

with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)

let us praise God together on our knees.

When I fall on my knees,

with my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Hine Ma Tov*

Mark A. Boyle

Select Members of MSUM Concert Choir

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Responding to the Word**



**OFFERING MESSAGE**

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

**OFFERTORY**

*Sicut Cervus*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

Select Members of MSUM Concert Choir

❖ **RESPONSE 712**

*As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought*

As those of old their first - fruits brought of vine - yard flock and field to God, the giv - er

of \_ all good, the source of \_ boun - teous yield, so we to - day our first - fruits bring, the

wealth of this good land: of farm and mar - ket, shop and home of mind and heart and hand.

❖ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## Bearing the Word into the World

### ✦HYMN 310

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*  
Second Sunday Band

I love thy kingdom, Lord, the house of thine abode,  
the church our blest Redeemer saved with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God. Her walls before thee stand,  
dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers ascend;  
to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy I prize her heavenly ways:  
her sweet communion, solemn vows, her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zion shall be given  
the brightest glories earth can yield, and brighter bliss of heaven.

### ✦BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*  
Sally Harmon, organ

arr. Edwin Childs

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF FARGO



## Sunday Worship

November 12, 2023

**PW Board Meeting:** On Nov. 14th a Board meeting will be held in the Jennie Roberts Room at 10:00am.

**PW Bible Study Leaders:** On Nov. 15 Pastor Mary Holtey will present the Bible Study on Lesson 3 in the office conference room at 10:00am.

**Circles:** Circles will meet Nov. 21 in the Jennie Roberts Room; Naomi/Ruth Circles will meet at 9:30am and the Rachel Circle will meet at 1:00pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Paula Christensen at 701-219-5795.

**Men's Bible Study:** The men's Bible study meets again on November 14th at 6:45 a.m. in the Jennie Roberts Room. The group convenes on the second Tuesday of each month, October through May. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be served. The study this year examines the Book of Genesis. A copy of the study guide can be obtained from Bruce Maylath. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

**Delivering Thanksgiving Meals:** Again this year, we are partnering with Heart n' Soul to deliver Thanksgiving meals. A signup for this year's dinner delivery is on the Volunteer Opportunity Board in the west foyer. We'll need about 30 cars to deliver the 500 meals the day before Thanksgiving. We'll add more drivers if we need to. The meals will be picked up from the church this year! Thank you for your continued support of this church tradition!

**Town Hall Looking For Supporters:** The Town Hall Board is looking for individuals and/or businesses who are interested in supporting our Town Hall Lecture Series in a larger way than just purchasing a season ticket. If you or someone you know would like to discuss how you could impact our program and the level of speakers that are brought to our community, please feel free to contact one of the following people: Cynthia Baumgardner, Mary Haugo, Marcia Foss, Elaine Rudd or Barb Erbstoesser. Help us continue the excellent program that this church started over 50+ years ago.

**Attention Snow Birds!** Please notify the office of your winter address along with the dates you'll be away. Some items are mailed at special non-profit rates and will not forward even if you have a forwarding order at the post office. Please help us stay in touch!

**Covenant Of Prayer:** Kayla Bones (surgery on 11/14); Tom Kley; Dale Rage; Jennifer; peace in the Middle East; and the people of Afghanistan, Libya, Morocco, Maui and Ukraine.

**Photo & Information Updates:** Take a new photo for this year's holiday cards? If so, please email a copy to the church office at [admin.assistant@firstpresfargo.org](mailto:admin.assistant@firstpresfargo.org), or bring a hard copy into the office to be scanned. This is also an opportunity to make sure all your information is up to date! The office is hoping to put out a Hard Copy Directory in early 2024.

**Congregational Meeting, Nov. 26:** A Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, November 26 following worship in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting is to elect Church Officers and approve the Pastors' Terms of Call.

**Calling all single women** of the church who are 50 years of age and older! Let's gather for a couple of minutes after church on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> in the Jennie Roberts Room to discuss the idea of meeting up a few times a year for just socializing. It could be coffee, lunch, a movie, a play, an art gallery visit... We hope to see you on the 19<sup>th</sup>. -Elaine Rudd and Marcia Foss

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S  
CHRISTMAS TEA**  
Featuring the  
**Ransom Notes Quartet**  
December 5, 2023 @ 1:00pm  
Join us for a program with Scripture  
and a special Christmas story.  
Festive treats to follow!

**Concordia's 97th annual Christmas concert:** Experience the region's grandest musical tradition performed by more than 300 student musicians. "Rejoice and Sing!" will feature three choirs and a 75-piece orchestra and will be performed in front of a magnificent 140'-wide mural. Concert dates are Dec. 1, 2, and 3. For tickets, call 888-477-0277 or visit [ConcordiaChristmas.com](http://ConcordiaChristmas.com).



**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:** Abi Carlson, Kim Carter, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Tetteh Dottey, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Donna Rummens, 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, November 12**

*11:30 Fellowship*

### **Monday, November 13**

*5:30 EduCon Committee Meeting*

### **Tuesday, November 14**

*6:45 Men's Bible Study*

*10:00 PW Board Meeting*

*5:30 Board of Deacons Meeting*

### **Wednesday, November 15**

*10:00 PW Bible Study Leaders*

*5:00 Wednesday Activities Dinner*

*5:30 St. Andrew's Brass Rehearsal*

*5:30 Genesis Ringers Rehearsal*

*6:15 Children & Youth Choir Rehearsals*

*6:30 Westminster Ringers*

*7:00 Youth Group*

*7:30 Sanctuary Choir*

### **Thursday, November 16**

*5:30 Nurturing Families*

### **Friday, November 17**

No Church Events

### **Saturday, November 18**

*10:00 PW Circle (H)*

### **Sunday, November 19**

*9:15 Lectio Divina Class*

*10:30 Worship Service (L)*

*11:30 Fellowship*

*11:30 Women's meeting*

**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

November 5 Attendance: 694

628 in person

66 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$22,730.77



### Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

[www.firstpresfargo.org](http://www.firstpresfargo.org)