



*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.*

*Please join us outside for fellowship 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**

God of glory, your Word made a home with us so that we might be at home in you. Gather your children from the farthest places in the world and lead us to that home where the human race can become a human family; through Jesus Christ and in the Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

### **PRELUDE**

*Scherzo*

Willan

Christian Stromley, guest organist

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

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

The Word became flesh and lived among us  
**and we have seen his glory.**

The true light that enlightens everyone  
has come into the world.

**Glory to God who has blessed us in Christ.**

**Glory to God forever.**

**Let us worship God!**

#### **\*HYMN 147: *The First Nowell***

**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)**

**And by the light of that same star  
three wise men came from country far;**

to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain)

This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay. (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)

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in God's love made known in the gift of Jesus,  
let us confess our sins.

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we confess that we are a distracted people and forgetful of your love. We make selfish choices, hurt each other, and perpetuate injustice in your world. We have sinned against you and are deeply sorry and repent of our disregard of you, each other, and your creation. By the power of your Spirit, forgive, restore, and strengthen us to live in your light and walk in your truth; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### \*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

As children of the Holy One,  
God forgives you and loves you eternally.  
By the power of God's Spirit,  
forgive yourself and forgive others  
as God in Christ has forgiven you.

### \*RESPONSE: *Love has Come*



Love has come: a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the Beth-le - hem skies.



See, all heav-en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of joy a - ris - es:



Love! Love! Born un-to you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo-ry to God on high!\_\_\_\_\_

## \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

# The Word

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** reader, Bruce Maylath

Heavenly Father,

Holy Wisdom came to dwell with us in Jesus,

filling our world with her light and life.

May she also dwell within your word this day,

that we may have intimate knowledge of your love for us,

through the One who is close to your heart,

Jesus Christ your Son. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Ephesians 3:1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

May God bless the reading and hearing of this portion of the holy Word.

**SECOND READING:** Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel.””

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary

his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

**SERMON:** The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

**\*HYMN 150:** *As with Gladness Men of Old*

As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold;  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy manger, rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way;  
and when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.

**\*PROFESSION OF FAITH:** *Nicene Creed*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# Responding to the Word

## OFFERING



*A reminder that offering plates are at the west & north doors of the sanctuary to receive your offering and yellow attendance cards or use the QR code to access the secure giving portal on our website!*

## OFFERTORY

*O Holy Night*

arr. Seal

Nancy Norris & Virginia Stern, duo pianos

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

## THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy...

...we sing to the glory of your name:

## RESPONSE 559: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord...

...Great is the Mystery of Faith;

## RESPONSE 560: *Christ Has Died; Christ Is Risen*

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine...

## 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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

## COMMUNION MUSIC

*Angels We Have Heard on  
High with Hark! The Herald  
Angels Sing*

arr. Seal

Nancy Norris & Virginia Stern,  
duo pianos

## PRAYER

# Bearing the Word into the World

## **\*HYMN 151: *We Three Kings of Orient Are***

**We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign. (Refrain)**

**Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising gladly raising,  
worshiping God Most High. (Refrain)**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)**

**Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)**

## **\*BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!*

arr. Diemer



January 2, 2021

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

**Welcome Christian Stromley & Susan Clambey:**

Sally Harmon will be on vacation during January and February, traveling to Gulf Shores, Alabama, to get out of the cold! In Sally's absence, please welcome Christian Stromley, who will be on the organ bench except for two Sundays. (He's getting married and honeymooning in January!) Christian Stromley grew up in Wisconsin, starting piano at 12, and has been playing in church since age 15. He studied Organ and Church Music at Concordia, St. Paul. Music has always been his love and it is his dream to pursue it professionally. You may recall that Christian recorded several gifts of music on our church's organ during 2020 while we were doing online worship and shared some of those recordings with us.

Susan Clambey will be the organist for January 9 and 16. Susan is celebrating 58 years as a pipe organist in the region. She is also a vocalist, piano teacher, and composer, making superb usage of her degree from Concordia College, Moorhead.

**Who's ready for BINGO?!** The EduCon Committee invites you to a congregational fun night fit for all ages. We will have Bingo, karaoke, prizes, and more! Join us **Saturday, January 22, from 6-8:30pm in the Social Hall.** Feel free to bring a friend or two!

**A Word about Masks:** Moving into 2022 our church will continue to follow Public Health's guidelines of wearing masks indoors where groups of people are gathered. We are all growing weary of a pandemic that continues to slog on – I know I am! I reviewed our re-gathering policy adopted over a year ago. It reminds us that we “are grounded in a faith which calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:39), to clothe ourselves in compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience (Colossians 3:12), and to care for the least of these among us (Matthew 25:45).” I am asking you, personally, to please be patient as, together, we stay diligent and work to find the right paths forward.

Wishing us all a blessed new year,  
Pastor Mary Holtey

**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](mailto:jlundgren@firstpresfargo.org).

**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!”

**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](mailto: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.

**Rehearsals Resume:** The church's music ensembles will resume their regular rehearsal schedules **beginning on Wednesday, January 12.** All the singing groups are open to additional members at any time. Please contact the directors of each group for further information.

**Hosted Concert:** The January program of the FM Area Music Club will be “Jazz in January” presented by the Michael Helm Trio. This **free program will be at 1:00 pm, Monday, January 17,** in the Jennie Roberts Room. All are welcome to attend!

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

**Deacons:** Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, 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*  
 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:community650@firstpresfargo.org)

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

**Sunday, January 2**

*No Confirmation*

**Monday, January 3**

*Office Closed*

**Tuesday, January 4**

8:30 Bulletin Articles Due

5:30 Woship Cmt. (H)

7:00 Mission Cmt.

**Wednesday, January 5**

*No Wednesday Night Activities*

6:30 Pilgrimage Guides

**Thursday, January 6** *No Church Events*

**Friday, January 7** *No Church Events*

**Saturday, January 8** *No Church Events*

**Sunday, January 9**

9:15 Sunday School for All

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Christmas Clean-up

12:00 Confirmation

### For Your Information

December 26 Worship Attendance:

20 in person, 39 Livestreamed

Contributions Received: NA



### Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

[www.firstpresfargo.org](http://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>
<b>Income</b>	\$707,773	\$695,396	\$12,377	\$779,600
<b>Expense</b>	684,979	730,672	-\$45,693	798,774
<b>Net/Shortfall</b>	\$22,794	-\$35,276	\$58,070	-\$19,174