



*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**

Creator God, you have formed us as your own, so whether we are weeping or laughing, dreaming or shouting for joy, we are always coming home to you. For all this and more, we thank you in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **PRELUDE**

*Variations on "Jesus, Lover of My Soul"  
The National Spiritual Anthem of Ukraine  
Sally Harmon, organist*

arr. Linker

### **The National Spiritual Anthem of Ukraine**

Lord, oh the Great and Almighty,  
Protect our beloved Ukraine,  
Bless her with freedom and light  
Of your holy rays.

With learning and knowledge enlighten  
Us, your children small,  
In love pure and everlasting  
Let us, oh Lord, grow.

We pray, oh Lord Almighty,  
Protect our beloved Ukraine,  
Grant our people and country  
All your kindness and grace.

Bless us with freedom, bless us with wisdom,  
Guide into kind world,  
Bless us, oh Lord, with good fortune  
For ever and evermore.

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

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

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

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion  
**we were like those who dream.**

Then our mouth was filled with laughter and shouts of joy.  
**We rejoiced: “The Lord has done great things for us.”**  
May those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,  
**come home with joy, carrying their sheaves.**  
**Let us worship God.**

**\*HYMN 645:** *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

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!

What God’s almighty power has made  
God's gracious mercy keepeth;  
by morning glow or evening shade  
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth.  
Within the kingdom of God's might,  
lo! all is just and all is right:  
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!

Thus all my toilsome way along  
I sing aloud thy praises,  
that all may hear the grateful song  
my voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart;  
both soul and body, take your part:  
to God all praise and glory!

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

If we ask God to restore us to the way we have been, then we have not asked for as much as God intends to give. God is not content simply to return or restore us to former things. Instead, God seeks to give the gift of resurrection—a new and abundant life. With confidence in God’s generosity, we confess our sins and seek the new life offered in Jesus Christ.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Purifying God, we grow comfortable with the way things are in our lives, in the church, and in the world. We do not always welcome the new life you offer in Christ, for you overturn our notions of power and protocol. Sure of our own righteousness, we are critical of others.**

Wanting to control our assets, we hoard the gifts you give us. Forgive us, we pray, for seeking our gain at the expense of others. Help us bend our lives toward your own life of self-giving and sacrifice. Fill us, our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

### \*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

The apostle Paul reminds us that we do not make ourselves righteous. Our righteousness comes through faith in Christ, who has made us his own. Hear the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. The old life has passed away—and a new life has begun.

**Forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead, we press on toward the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.**

### \*RESPONSE: *Change My Heart, O God*

Change my heart, O God; \_\_\_\_\_ make it ev - er true. \_\_\_\_\_

Change my heart, O God; \_\_\_\_\_ may I be like you. \_\_\_\_\_

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody consists of quarter notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are 'Change my heart, O God; \_\_\_\_\_ make it ev - er true. \_\_\_\_\_'. The second staff has the same melody and lyrics: 'Change my heart, O God; \_\_\_\_\_ may I be like you. \_\_\_\_\_'.

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

## The Word

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: Sue Van Osdel, reader

Break open the Scripture through the power of your Spirit, O God. Let your word, read and proclaimed, pour out until its fragrance fills this house and our lives. Then, anointed with your word, send us out to share the good news we have received. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who is with us always. **Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

#### SECOND READING: John 12:1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume

not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?’ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, ‘Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.’

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

## SERMON

### **\*HYMN 74:** *When God Restored Our Common Life*

When God restored our common life,  
our hope, our liberty,  
at first it seemed a passing dream,  
a waking fantasy;  
a shock of joy swept over us,  
for we had wept so long;  
the seeds we watered once with tears  
sprang up into a song.

We went forth weeping, sowing seeds  
in hard, unyielding soil;  
with laughing hearts we carry home  
the fruit of all our toil.  
We praise the One who gave the growth,  
with voices full and strong.  
The seeds we watered once with tears  
sprang up into a song.

Great liberating God, we pray  
for all who are oppressed.  
May those who long for what is right  
with justice now be blest.  
We pray for those who mourn this day,  
and all who suffer wrong;  
may seeds they water now with tears  
spring up into a song.

### **\*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



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

OFFERTORY

*Come to Me*

Courtney

Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director

*Come to Me*

Come to me, all ye heavy laden, come and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me.

For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me.

And you shall find rest, and you shall find rest for your souls.

Come to Me, all ye tired and weary, Come and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn of me.

For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn of me.

For I am gentle and humble of heart.

Come home at last.

*Come to Me*

Come to me, all ye heavy laden, come and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me.

For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me.

And you shall find rest, and you shall find rest for your souls.

Come to Me, all ye tired and weary, Come and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn of me.

For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn of me.

For I am gentle and humble of heart.

Come home at last.

\*RESPONSE

*Doxology*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Christ, all people here below;**

**Praise Holy Spirit evermore;**

**Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

\*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**    *I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry*                      arr. Thompson  
Genesis Ringers; Sally Harmon,  
director; Jeff Olson, soloist

## PRAYER

# Bearing the Word into the World

### \*HYMN 529: *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

Draw us in the Spirit's tether,  
for when humbly in your name  
two or three are met together,  
you are in the midst of them.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Here we touch your garment's hem.

As disciples used to gather  
in the name of Christ to sup,  
then with thanks to God the giver  
break the bread and bless the cup,  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
so now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living

make as sacraments of you,  
that by caring, helping, giving,  
we may be disciples true.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
We will serve with faith anew.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Two Variants on "Jesus, Lover of My  
Soul"*

arrs. Busarow/Linker



April 3, 2022

**Covenant Of Prayer:** Jennifer; Hannah; those who are experiencing homelessness in our community; our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya; and the people of Ukraine.

**Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer:** If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include his/her name.

**Hunter Scholarship Fund:** Church members Bill and Carolyn Hunter have donated a generous amount of money to be used as scholarships for students leaving Mpangua Primary School. This money will support four student scholarships per year for secondary school and development projects at Mpangua School through our Chogoria Partnership. The Chogoria Partnership Ministry Team is so grateful to the Hunters for their generous donation! Thank you!

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is one of our denomination's 4 annual offerings. Your donations are used to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. We will receive your gifts to OGHs throughout the season of Lent and dedicate them on Palm Sunday. Envelopes are in the pew racks, the Narthex and the Welcome Desk Info Kiosk. You may also give online through our website, under special offerings. *You shall be*

**Children and Youth Worship Service:** Mark **May 1** on your calendar as a "don't miss" Sunday! The children and youth of First Presbyterian will plan and deliver a special service based on the Luke 15 story of the prodigal son. You can expect liturgy and sermon written by youth, music from all ages, bells, a special children's message, and noisy offering – ***save your change to make a change!*** This service also includes confirmation, a baptism and presentation of bibles to third graders. Do you see what we mean by "not missing it"? To top it all off (*we all know the end of the story is a feast upon the return of the lost son*), the service will be followed by a barbecue feast including confirmation cake! The EduCon committee is hosting this free meal for everyone. It will be a day of great celebration!

**Reminder:** Use the QR code found in the bulletin to access the secure giving portal on our website!

**PW News:** The PW is proud to announce we will be offering a University of Jamestown scholarship this May. If you are interested please contact Kayla Bones or Penny Andrist for the application.

The YWCA shelter is collecting new pillows. They are to be left in the coat room. This month the focus for the YWCA box in our coat room is allergy medication (Claritin or Benadryl). Check the chart on our board to see what has been contributed the past months.

**The Emergency Food Pantry March Campaign:** All food and monetary funds raised between **February 28 and April 10** will be reported to Minnesota FoodShare. The Pantry will receive a proportional match based on all participating food shelves across Minnesota. Even though the EFP is in Fargo, we serve Clay County and therefore qualify for this amazing opportunity. **Today** is the last day for collecting food. A check may be sent directly to the Pantry by April 10. Your support is always appreciated. Any questions, please call Jan Harrison 701-371-1855.

**Town Hall Is Back!!** After two years, the Town Hall lectures from 2020 will be held this spring. Mark your calendars for the lectures held **April 4 and May 2 at 10:30 am at the Holiday Inn**. If you had purchased season tickets for the 2020 season, you are good to go. If you don't know or would like to purchase tickets, please contact Marcia Foss, 701-840-1986 or [ndmom-foss@gmail.com](mailto:ndmom-foss@gmail.com).

**Monday, April 4 – Amanda Knox**

**Monday, May 2 – Spencer Stone**

For those who had purchased the luncheon tickets, a boxed lunch will be available for you to pick up and eat during the Q & A period or take home with you. With the pandemic, we are unable to have the sit down, served luncheon. Masks are required to attend the lectures. Think Spring and think Town Hall!

**Synod School:** By now, you may have heard that Triennium has been canceled this summer. The Presbytery Youth Connection Team has decided to offer a similar, regional opportunity. Synod School is July 24-29 at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. The cost for 6-8<sup>th</sup> graders is \$260, \$320 for 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade, and \$395 for adults. This is an event that is available to all ages, but has separate tracks for children, youth, and adults. You can find more information and online registration at <https://lakesandprairies.org/engaging-leaders/synod-school/>. When registering in the Put Me By box, please enter PNP youth. Once you have registered, please contact Kayla Bones ([kbones@firstpresfargo.org](mailto:kbones@firstpresfargo.org)).

**Book Exchange:** First Presbyterian will be hosting a book exchange on May 22 to share books among our members, both children and adults. The goal is to get some "new" books to enjoy over the summer. Please bring books to share starting in April and place them in the Holy Buckets. Books will be set out on **Sunday, May 22** for all to take.

