



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 Jennie Roberts Room 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 Most High, thank you for signs of your power and grace, shown to us even in the wilderness. Give us courage to stand firm in your Word in every time of trial and testing, that we may enter the land of your freedom and receive the salvation you so generously give; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
The National Spiritual Anthem of Ukraine
(see translation on back page)
Sally Harmon, organ

arr. Wood

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH: The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

God calls us here to worship.

We are here, ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

God calls us here to worship.

We are here, ready to listen to God's Word, sometimes surprising and unexpected, sometimes a whisper in our heart.

God calls us here to worship.

We are here, ready to listen to the Holy Spirit as God speaks to us.

Let us worship God together.

HYMN 65: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty.
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more;
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield;
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

The Scriptures call us to turn from sinful ways and return to God,
who offers mercy and pardon. Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon God who is near.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, you are always speaking, giving us instructions, directing our attention, and telling us your love. We confess that sometimes we are not very good listeners. We aren't sure what is your voice, and what is ours, and what is just noise. We are easily distracted. We like our own ways. But even when we are too busy, you still call. We admit that we find you difficult to hear, and we ask for your help. Open our minds and hearts. Tune our ears to your voice. Help us to listen to what you have to say, and then help us to follow wherever you lead.

(Silence)

Thank you, God, for hearing us, and for speaking to us. Remind us of your love and forgiveness, and give us strength to be faithful to you. Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

God's love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out,
a way through, a way back to God.

**Through the waters of baptism, we have died with Christ and are raised with him.
With gratitude, in faith, we will walk the way of Christ.**

***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 lyrics: "Change my heart, O God; _____ make it ev - er true. _____". The second staff has lyrics: "Change my heart, O God; _____ may I be like you. _____". The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with rests.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* arr. Raney
Nancy Norris & Virginia Stern, piano duo

CHILDREN'S TIME: Penny Andrist

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: Scott Swanholm, reader

We seek you in your word, O God, as though we are searching for water in a dry and weary land. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may this word be to us a rich feast, satisfying the soul. Then with our mouths, we will praise you; and with our lives, we will bless you, our Host and our Hope. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

SECOND READING: Luke 13: 1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”’

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

SERMON

***HYMN 487:** *These Treasured Children*

These treasured children present now
are bound to us by sacred vow:
with love, we make a heartfelt claim
to welcome them in Jesus’ name.

Our ancient story we shall tell,
till these our children know it well
within their souls and minds and hearts,
for this is where their journey starts.

We long to trust as children do
and so entrust our days to you;
in their young lives we clearly see
a lesson in humility.

Come, Holy Spirit, help us be
a nurturing community;
empower us to realize
God’s kingdom through our children’s eyes.

Then, tender God, each child embrace;
God give them blessings, grant them grace.
Surprise them, God, with wonders still,
and gently guide them to your will.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM:

Sacrament of Baptism

Callen Morteza Lajimodiére,
child of Kyle and Alexa Lajimodiére
Elaine Rudd, presiding elder

Presentation:

Parents: Do you desire that Callen Morteza be baptized?

I do.

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to your child?

I do.

Sponsors: Do you promise, through prayer and example, to support and encourage Callen to be a faithful Christian?

I do.

Congregation: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Callen by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church?

We do.

Profession of Faith

***Renunciations** (*parents and congregation*)

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?

I do.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love?

I do.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love?

***Profession**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, Eternal God,...

The Baptism

Laying On of Hands

Welcome

Callen has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

Baptismal Response 491

You Have Put On Christ

You have put on Christ, in Christ you have been bap - tized.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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



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

Be Thou My Vision
Nancy Norris & Virginia Stern, piano duo

arr. Raney

RESPONSE

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

Doxology

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

***HYMN 738:** *O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee*

O Master, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience, still with thee
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Master, let me live.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

arr. Hustad

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.



March 20, 2022

Covenant Of Prayer: Jennifer; Hannah; Bill Olsen; 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.

Session has called a special congregational meeting for March 27, 2022, after worship (approx. 11:30am) to approve the candidate being presented for pastor/head of staff and the terms of call.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Ukraine: Help our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ by giving to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Disaster Response in Ukraine. Your gifts will create a significant impact by securing emergency humanitarian aid such as food items, shelter, medicines, diapers, hygiene items, etc. You can give by cash, check or through our website, make sure to note "Ukraine".

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 called repairers of the breach.* (Isaiah 58:12)

All-Church Orchestra: Calling all strings, brass, woodwind and percussionists from grade 7 to age 107! This is your opportunity to dust off your musical instruments and join the orchestra for a few short rehearsals to prepare to lead worship on Sunday, March 27. Rehearsals will be in the Choir Room **today following worship**, and in the Sanctuary on **Wednesday, March 23 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The orchestra will meet at 9:15 am on Sunday, March 27 to warm up.** Music will be ready in advance for individual practice. If you have questions, please contact Sally Harmon at the church office, or email: sharmon@firstpresfargo.org.

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.

We continue with our yearly pledge drive. Please prayerfully consider your help with our goals.

Joining the Church: If you have been participating in the life of the church and wish to become a member, please contact Pastor Mary Holtey. We will be receiving new members in worship **March 27**. We will have a "meet 'n' greet" with Session at 9:30 in the Jennie Roberts Room, followed by a reception in worship.

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. **Sunday, April 4** is the last day, so please bring all your items to the church by that date. Your support is always appreciated. Any questions, please call Jan Harrison 701-371-1855.

Send birthday greetings to Jack Evert as he turns 100 on March 31! He has moved to the Cities to be closer to his children. Let's shower him with birthday cards and wishes from his church family. Here's his address: Jack Evert, 8051 33rd Ave. S. #662, Bloomington, MN 55425.

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 ndmomfoss@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!

Share Your Story! This year for the children's and youth Sunday, we are studying the story of the prodigal son. For the sermon, we would like to interview a few willing people who would share a "prodigal son" story that happened in their lives. Was there a time you "got lost" and found your way back? If you are comfortable sharing your story with youth, please contact Kayla Bones at kbones@firstpresfargo.org.

Synod School: By now, you may have heard that Tri-ennium 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 6-8th graders is \$260, \$320 for 9-12th 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) if you would like to travel with the youth delegation from our presbytery.

Pillows! Pillows! We continue to shower the YWCA shelter with new pillows that each person staying at the shelter gets to keep when they leave. May these women and children always have a safe and soft place to lay their heads at night. You may bring new pillows to the West Coat Room.

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.

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.

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
 Ley Bouchard-Administrative Assistant
 Penny Andrist-Children's Ministry Coordinator
 Kayla Bones-Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinator
 Rick Fiebiger-Facilities Manager
 Drew Brovold-Custodian

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

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

Sunday, March 20

11:30 Fellowship with coffee
 Orchestra Rehearsal

12:00 Confirmation

Monday, March 21

6:30 Session (Z)

Tuesday, March 22

8:30 Bulletin Articles Due

10:30 Worship Planning

Wednesday, March 23

9:00 Men's Group

12:00 Messenger deadline

5:30 St Andrew's Brass / Genesis Ringers

6:00 Orchestra

6:15 2-6 Choir / 7-12 Choir

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 24

No church events

Friday, March 25

No Church events

Saturday, March 26

10:00 Meet the Candidate! (Zoom)

2:00 Meet the Candidate: JRR

Sunday, March 27

9:15 Sunday School for All

10:30 Worship Service (L) Baptism

11:30 Congregational meeting, Fellowship follows

12:00 Confirmation

For Your Information

March 13 Worship Attendance:
 116 in person; 39 households livestreamed
 Contributions received: \$4778.



Church Information

Office Hours:
 M-TH, 8:30 am-4:00 pm
 Phone: 701-293-6311
www.firstpresfargo.org

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