



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

Merciful God, you always hear us when we cry out. You stay close when we are in distress. It is you in whom we seek refuge, and you deliver us from evil. Let praise flow from our mouths to your ears, for we can taste and see that you are indeed good. All glory, praise, and honor are due to you, O God, our redeemer and our strength. Amen.

PRELUDE

We Praise You, O God
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Kerr

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

I will bless the Lord at all times,
God's praise will continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord,
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
let us exalt God's name together!

HYMN 612: *We Praise You, O God

**We praise you, O God,
our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion
our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you;
we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name;
glad praises we sing.**

**We worship you, God of
our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest
our guide you have been.**

When perils o'ertake us,
you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord,
our struggles we win.

With voices united
our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of
thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us,
your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great Redeemer,
forever be praise!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins to God,
who alone has the power to save
and waits in mercy to forgive.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we have not been humble. We have discouraged others from seeking you. We have not sought your wisdom. Forgive us, O God, and teach us to boast only of you. Help us to celebrate when others seek after you. Give us the light of your wisdom and ways, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

People of God,
the Lord hears, forgives, and saves.
Therefore, be reconciled to one another
and walk humbly before God.

RESPONSE: *God Welcomes All

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The second staff contains: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half).

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

I Love You, Lord
Sanctuary Choir & Westminster Ringers
Bryan Poyzer, director

arr. Sherman

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what you hear: may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.
My Jesus, I love thee, I know thou art mine, for thee all the follies of sin I resign;
my gracious Redeemer, my Savior art thou, if ever I loved thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow; if ever I loved thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now, my Jesus, 'tis now.
I love you Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you, O my soul, rejoice!
Take joy, my King, in what you hear: may it be a sweet, sweet sound,
a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

CHILDREN'S TIME: Penny Andrist

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: reader, Bruce Maylath

Dear God,
let us not only hear of you
but see you with our own eyes
through your Word.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 34:1-8

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord,
and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.

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

SECOND LESSON: Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

SERMON: The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***HYMN 697:** *Take My Life, and Let it Be*

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH:** *Apostles' Creed*

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.

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

OFFERTORY

How Can I Keep from Singing?
Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director

Lowry/arr. Sherman

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

***HYMN 298:** *Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

Lord, you give the great commission:

“Heal the sick and preach the word.”

**Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,**

help us witness to your purpose

with renewed integrity:

with the Spirit’s gifts empower us

for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service:

“In my name baptize and teach.”

**That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,**

give us all new fervor, draw us

closer in community:

with the Spirit’s gifts empower us

for the work of ministry.

Lord, you make the common holy:

“This, my body; this, my blood.”

Let us all, for earth’s true glory,

daily lift life heavenward,

asking that the world around us

share your children’s liberty:

with the Spirit’s gifts empower us

for the work of ministry.

Lord, you show us love’s true measure:

“Father, what they do, forgive.”

Yet we hoard as private treasure

all that you so freely give.

May your care and mercy lead us

to a just society:

with the Spirit’s gifts empower us

for the work of ministry.

Lord, you bless with words assuring:

“I am with you to the end.”

Faith and hope and love restoring,

**may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity:
with the Spirit's gifts empower us
for the work of ministry.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

We Praise You, O God

arr. Young



October 24, 2021 Stewardship Sunday

Covenant Of Prayer: Those who are experiencing homelessness in our community; and our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya.

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.

It's Important: Have you ever questioned the necessity of our Friendship Pads/Attendance Slips? Believe it or not, **letting us know that you are worshiping with us on Sunday mornings is more important than you know.** More than keeping attendance, it allows for congregants and visitors to communicate to the office changes in personal information and new member interest. So please sign/check in every service you attend.

Pillows: Thanks to the goodwill of FPC, we are known at the YWCA Women's Shelter as the "Pillow Church". The women and children who stay at the shelter all receive their own pillow that they can take with them when they leave. As of October 18, we have donated 457 pillows, along with many kind messages encouraging the ladies to hang in there; don't give up hope; the Good Lord loves you.

Along with pillows, our church has donated 27 bottles of shampoo and conditioner to the shelter, as well as countless other items the shelter is in dire need of. Another item needed from the shelter's urgent needs list is paper towels. For the rest of October, if you can help, please leave paper towel donations in the YWCA bin in the West Coat Room.

It makes us proud to be a members of FPC. Thanks to each of you for your generosity.—The Simles

Candy! Candy! On Sunday, **October 31** we have arranged for Noah and the animals to greet you after worship WITH Halloween treats! Beware – the animals got to choose the treats. Let's hope it's not fish, worms, seeds or Meow Mix cat food.

The EduCon Cmt is requesting Halloween candy donations from the congregation Any candy is welcome, but these specifically fit our theme: Kit Kats, Snickers, Skittles, Milk Duds. **Please bring to the church office by Wednesday, October 27.**

A Peek @ Next Week: For All Saints Sunday, we will be enjoying music by the Sanctuary Choir, St. Andrew's Brass, and pianist, Caleb Gadberry.

Today is Stewardship Sunday! *Because You Gave...* we have continued to be the Church through a time of pandemic and financial uncertainty. You have been resilient and we are grateful! Thank you to those who have already returned your Estimate of Giving cards. If you haven't, cards are in the pews, as well as in the Welcome Desk Info Kiosk and in the Narthex. Session will use these "estimates of giving" as they carefully and prayerfully consider our budget for 2022.

2021 Per Capita: It's not too late to pay your 2021 Per Capita! In fact, we kindly ask that you do so! The office will be accepting payments through the end of the year. The rate set by the Presbytery is \$48 per confirmed member of your household. Notice that this is the same rate as 2022, so please note which year it is for when you return your payment to the office.

Separate Checks Please: When making multiple payments/donations, please write separate checks for each. For example, when making your pledge payment and paying your Per Capita, write 2 checks instead of totaling the amounts and writing one check. Thank you.

Another Convenient Option for Giving! Did you notice the QR Code in today's bulletin? Session discussed, and Management & Finance Cmt. approved, the use of this code that's directly linked to our secure giving portal through Subsplash Giving. Just open your smartphone's camera and focus the camera on the QR Code. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete the action. Easy and convenient- give it a try!

All Saints Sunday: All Saints Day this year will be observed on **October 31**. We will remember with great fondness and respect our church members who have died this past year. There will be an opportunity for family members to come forward to the chancel area to light a candle in remembrance of loved ones. All are invited to participate in this meaningful time to remember recent losses or saints who have gone before us.

Adult Education Class: Join local author, and fellow congregant, Prakash Mathew, in a two part Sunday school series: *Doing the Right Thing in the Decision Making Process* on **November 7**, and *But that's the way we've always done it!* on November 14, at 9:15 am. How do you make decisions in your life? How will you know that you are doing the right thing for the right reason? What role does your moral compass play in the decision making process? Is God part of your moral compass?

Prakash will be signing his book, *We are Called to Do the Right Thing* at 9:00 am and again after worship those two Sundays. The cost of the book is \$24.95, and proceeds go to the Dakota Medical Foundation.

When Tears Sing: Lament as a Path to the Heart of God. On **November 7 & 21, from 2:00-4:00 pm**, all church members are invited to the Social Hall to explore the storied Christian tradition of lament. Led by psychologist Kit O'Neill, we will become more attuned to grief and trauma and experience deeper conversations with one another.

Kirkin' o' the Tartans: Join us for our annual Kirkin' of the Tartans worship on **Sunday, November 21**, to celebrate the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian church! Due to COVID-19 restrictions, in-person seating is limited, and online registration is required. 120 electronic tickets, and 20 paper tickets, will be available for each service. If you can't join us in-person for our Kirkin' services, please consider joining us via live stream. For a ticket link, and live stream options, visit the church website at www.firstpresfargo.org. Paper tickets are reserved for those without internet connections.

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)

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*

Monica Gelinske-*Administrative Assistant*

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

FPC Officers

Session: Kim Carter, Tom Clusiau, Lisa Edison-Smith, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Bruce Furness, Dick Henderson, Ryan Johnston, Kurt Kooyer, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Scott Swanhholm, Paula Thomas, and Kevin Tobosa, Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens.

Deacons: Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Bob Morton, Karen Rivers, Andrea Smith, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens.

Treasurer: Sherri Stern

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

Sunday, October 24

11:30 Outdoor Fellowship / ZOOM Coffee Hour (Z)

12:00 Confirmation

Monday, October 25

3:30 Compass 3

Tuesday, October 26

8:30 Bulletin Articles Due

Wednesday, October 27

1:00 Library Cmt.

5:30 Genesis Ringers / St. Andrew's Brass

6:15 Youth Choirs / Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, October 28 *No Church Events*

Friday, October 29 *No Church Events*

Saturday, October 30 *No Church Events*

Sunday, October 31 **All Saints Sunday**

9:15 Sunday School for ALL

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Outdoor Fellowship / ZOOM Coffee Hour (Z)

12:00 Confirmation

For Your Information

October 17 Worship Attendance:

110 in person, 40 Livestreamed

Contributions Received: \$3,629.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org