



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.

April 27, 2025

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Appalachian Morning

Robert Sheldon

All Church Orchestra; Jill Post, conductor

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Gracious God, this morning is full of joy, meaning, and holy moments. As we gather to worship, still our hearts and center our spirits. Make us ready to bless our children through baptism and confirmation, to honor the faithful service of Sally Harmon, and to commit ourselves to the future you are unfolding. Let every word, every song, and every embrace draw us deeper into your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

✠CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

God's light is the glory we give in worship.

God's light is the praise we offer in thanksgiving.

God's light is the strength we gather in His name.

God's light is the love we spread to every corner of the world.

God's light is the reason we shine.

God's light is the purpose that drives us forward.

Today we light the candle of God's glorious light.

May it burn brightly in this space and in our hearts.

Let us worship the God of light that Shines On through us.

Let us worship God. Amen.

❖ **HYMN 450**

Be Thou My Vision

arr. Jill Post

Ian Durkin, soloist; Curt Brickman, Lisa McEvers, Rebecca Dura, Highland Pipes

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Interlude

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

Interlude


High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

❖ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

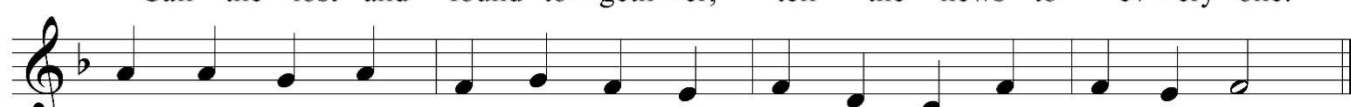
Holy and gracious God, you have called us your own and set us apart to declare your praise, but too often we have lived as though we belonged only to ourselves. We have failed to sing a new song to you, choosing instead the familiar tune of fear, pride, or apathy. We have forgotten the wonder of your love and the joy of your salvation. Forgive us, Lord. Renew in us the light of your presence. Give us courage to walk as your people, to seek justice, to love kindness, and to worship you in the beauty of holiness. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, we pray. Amen.

✧ **RESPONSE 774**

There is Now a New Creation



There is now a new cre - a - tion through the grace of Je - sus Christ,
 Call the lost and found to - geth - er; tell the news to ev - ery - one:




peace and rec - on - cil - i - a - tion with the God of end - less life.
 now the past is gone for - ev - er and a new life has be - gun.

✧ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**


GIFT OF MUSIC *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* arr. Benjamin Harlan

All Church Orchestra, Sanctuary Choir, and 3-6 Choir; Jill Post, conductor


Congregation: please join in singing verse three as directed.




I'm look-ing for the com-ing of Christ. I want to be with




Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we



shall know the joy of Je - sus. In Him there is no dark-ness at



all. The night and the day — are both a - like. The Lamb is the



light of the cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalms 96:1-9, pp. 539

1 Peter 2:9, pp. 1104

Whirl Story Bible, pg. 506

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

SERMON

For the Glory of God

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

✧ **HYMN 749**

Come! Live in the Light!

arr. Jill Post

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called
to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the city of God.

Refrain: We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called
to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence
will be no more. **(Refrain)**

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love. **(Refrain)**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM, RITUAL OF CONFIRMATION, &
RECOGNITION OF SERVICE**

CONFIRMATION SLIDESHOW

*Carter Argall, Chelsea Erstad, Ava Gadberry, Sinda Sambo, McKenna
Scheen, Gwen Stevens, Rose Tuya*

SCRIPTURE

STATEMENT OF BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

SESSION PROCLAMATION

MEMBERSHIP PROMISES

PARENT AND SPONSOR PROMISES

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISES

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostle's 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.**

CONFIRMATION QUESTIONS

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Maxwell Chijioke Peters; Born: 12-02-2024; Parents: Rosemary and
Maxin Peters; Grandparents: Everist and Emelia Njoku, Sarah
Nyenfueh and Cladius Peters; Sponsors: Maxin Ifunanya Peters and
Michelle Tucker*

*Braxton Matthew Connelly; Born: 02-06-2025; Parents: Joycelin and
Matthew Connelly; Grandparents: Jeanne and Vern Steidl & Dianne
and James Connelly; Sponsors: Josie Steidl and Brian Connelly*

...God has made them 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.**

CONFIRMATION BLESSING

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.**

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE FOR SALLY HARMON

*Signs of gratitude are presented to Sally by the congregation, staff, choir, bell
ensembles, and the American Guild of Organists.*

Responding to the Word



OFFERING MESSAGE

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

OFFERTORY

River Songs

arr. Douglas Wagner

All Church Orchestra; Sally Harmon, Director

✦RESPONSE 609

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

✦PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

✦HYMN 641

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

All Church Orchestra

When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride,
it is as though the whole creation cried: Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound,
as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the church, in liturgy and song, in faith and love, through centuries of wrong,
borne witness to the truth in every tongue: Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night when utmost evil strove against the light?
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight: Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

✦BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Old Hundredth"

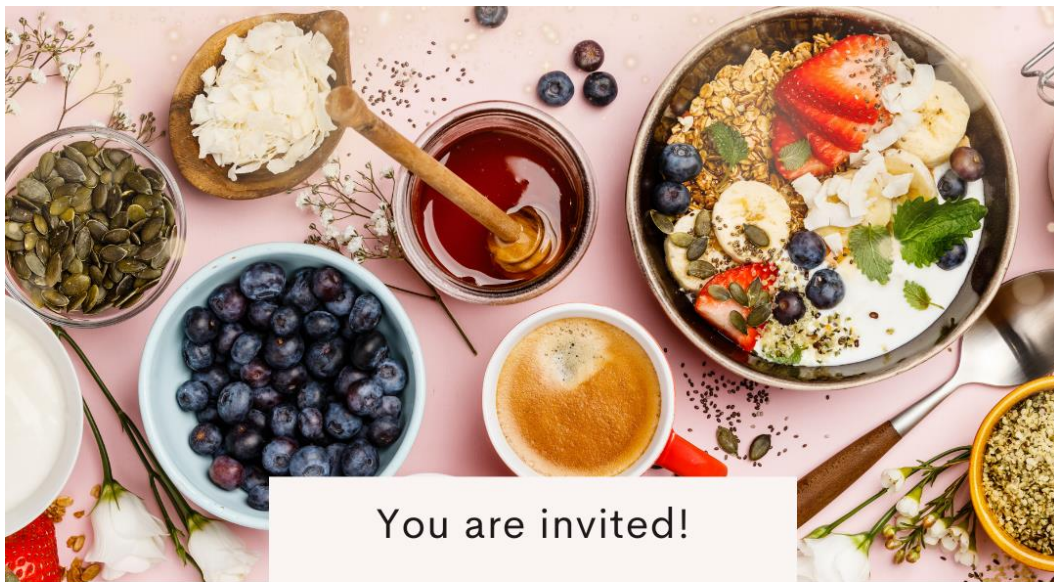
arr. Fred Bock

Sally Harmon, organist

Thank you to Tom Bigwood and Josh Trumbo on livestream and soundboard, and our Welcome Team: Jeff Wilkens, David Hoffman, Glen Deeton, and the Fred & Jody Hudson Family for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Sally Harmon, Elliot Sander, the Sanctuary Choir and Children's Choir directed by Jill Post; Ian Durkin, Curt Brickman, Lisa McEvers, Rebecca Dura, pipers; and

Members of the All - Church Orchestra: Krista Clusiau, Virginia Stern, flute; Savannah Joldersma, oboe; Catherine Tesch, clarinet; Josh Argall, Greg Post, Mike Wavra, trumpet; Steve Blazek, Dave Stern, Ken Wagenman, trombone; Shane Erstad, euphonium; Connor Hedblom, tuba; Jack Lawrence, Will Peterson, Kevin Thomas, percussion; Emily Erpelding, Mya Follingstad, Emily Ojanen, Kathleen Thomas, violin I; Leah Erpelding, Carrie Lawrence, Jeff Olson, Susan Peterson, Eleanor Torpey, violin II; Zoe Booth, Carsten Lawrence, Erin Torpey, viola; Don Carlsen, Jr., Jayci Lawrence, Matthew Pechtl, Jude Torpey, cello; Joey Pettit, Elise Tobosa, bass.



You are invited!

SHINE ON BRUNCH

**Following Worship
Sunday, April 27th**

*Join us for a complimentary brunch
and presentation regarding the
Capital Campaign!*

Church Information



Address:
650 2nd Ave. N.
Fargo, ND 58102

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Phone: (701) 293-6311
www.firstpresfargo.org

Shine On
— for generations to come —
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FARGO

Shine On Prayer Vigil
Thursday, May 1 | 5:30–9:30 PM
Jennie Roberts Room

Join us in continuous prayer for our congregation and campaign. Commit to just 15–20 minutes of prayer in person or wherever you are.

A Taizé service will also be held in the sanctuary from 6:30–7:15 PM — all are welcome.

Let your prayers shine on.

PRAYER VIGIL

As part of our Shine On Campaign, we are hosting a Prayer Vigil on Thursday, May 1, from 5:30 to 9:30 PM, and we'd love for you to be a part of it. We will be praying for our congregation, our mission partners, and the future of our ministry. Our goal is for prayers to be never ceasing throughout the vigil. Please join us for 15 minutes or more of praying in the Jennie Roberts room, or wherever you are. Taizé prayer service, sponsored by the Presentation Prayer Center, will be in the sanctuary that evening from 6:30 – 7:15. If you would like to experience this service, consider attending that as well.

Town Hall Lecture Series: Patty Wetterling, April 29

Town Hall resumes on Tuesday, April 29, with a presentation from consultant, educator and author, Patty Wetterling. Her book, *"Dear Jacob: A Mother's Journey of Hope"* chronicles her personal journey. Patty is the mother of Jacob Wetterling and she has a special place in her heart for Fargo as she came here to help with the Jenna North abduction. The lecture begins at 10:30 am at Prairie Heights Community Church, 319 32nd Ave. E., West Fargo. Tickets are \$40 and are available at the door. The final Town Hall Lecture will feature Candice DeLong on May 6th, also at Prairie Heights Community Church in West Fargo. We hope to see you there!

BRING A PLANT-TAKE A PLANT PLANT EXCHANGE

MAY 11TH FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Please bring any plant to exchange Sunday morning in the foyer area.

Drop off plants in the morning and 'shop' for something new to take home after worship.

This can include: houseplants, garden plants, herbs, flowers, cuttings, or seeds!

Did you have an overactive green thumb this winter and have more plants than you have space? Now is the time to divide your overgrown house plants or outdoor plants and exchange them for something new at our Spring Plant Exchange! May 11th after worship we will be coordinating a plant exchange. Much like the produce exchange last fall, we will have space for houseplants, outdoor landscaping plants, vegetable garden starter plants and herbs. If you can plant it, we will exchange it!

**INSPIRE.
EMPOWER.
LEAD.**

**Sat, May 3
2025**

9:00 - 5:00
AM PM

**Baker Downer
Presbyterian
Church**
11927 123rd Ave S,
Baker, MN

REGISTER NOW
www.eventbrite.com/e/1261604074749

Women Leading with Purpose and Spirit

- Deepen spiritual connection and self awareness
- Develop leadership skills grounded in spiritual values
- Foster a supportive community of like-minded women
- Be equipped to lead with authenticity, courage, and purpose

Cost

\$199 for the day
This conference has been subsidized by a grant from the Presbyterian Women!!!
Your cost - \$20!!



LEADER
Carrie Lauber



LEADER
Kelly Meyer

Watch for
Women's
Servant
Leadership
Conference Fall
2025



Shine On

— *for generations to come* —

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FARGO

2025 Capital Campaign



SUNDAY APRIL 27 - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Next Sunday we will bring our Shine On commitments forward in worship. Our offerings will meet today's needs and prepare the way for future generations. We are here because others gave generously with consideration for the future. Now it is our turn to do the same.

This Sunday we celebrate our confirmands, young people who have paused on the precipice of adulthood to ask big questions about who they are, what they believe, and how they want to live. Their small groups are called discipleship groups because discipleship means learning to live in the way of Jesus. It is about following Christ not only in belief but through action and relationships.

And they learn how to be disciples by mirroring us. How we respond to God's call, how we show up for one another, and how we invest in the future of the church models faith in action.

As we look toward next Sunday, I encourage you to take time to reflect, pray, and listen for how God may be calling you to respond to our Shine On campaign. You are invited to a

Prayer Vigil in the Jennie Roberts Room on Thursday, May 1, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Come for a few minutes or stay as long as you like. Let it be a quiet space to give thanks for our blessings and to lift up our hopes for the future.



In gratitude and hope,

Pastor Sarah



THE NEXT STEPS ON A JOURNEY OF GENEROSITY

A life of generosity is truly a journey.

At some point, we begin the journey, trusting God to provide even as we give up resources God has given us.

Often, the journey leads people to consider growing in generosity. They experience the joy of giving and want more of it.

Sometimes, a faithful journey leads people to step back in giving. The loss of a job or spouse may impact the ability to give.

The journey never ends. We have never 'arrived.' For years, churches taught people to 'tithe,' giving 10% of their income to the church. Some stopped at 10%, thinking they did 'enough.' Others realized they found so much joy in giving beyond 10% that they did not want to stop.

God constantly calls us to prayer, considering how our generosity might spread God's love and care throughout the world.

Regardless of where you are in your generosity journey, once you have experienced the joy of good and generous giving, you will want to take the next step!