



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.

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

Redeeming God, you satisfy our soul's hunger through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Filled with your steadfast love, let us live in love, working honestly to share with the needy, feeding others with the bread of kindness, tenderness, and forgiveness. **Amen.**

PRELUDE

Lord, I Want to be a Christian
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Young

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

By the power of the Holy Spirit
our steadfast loving God reaches out to redeem us.
Let us worship God!

HYMN 15: *All Creatures of our God and King

**All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O brother sun with golden beam,
O sister moon with silver gleam,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O brother wind with clouds and rain,
you nurture gifts of fruit and grain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O sister water, flowing clear,
make music for your Lord to hear.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O brother fire, so warm and bright,
chase off the shadows of the night.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfolds such blessings on our way,**

**sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**All who for love of God forgive,
all who in pain or sorrow grieve,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ bears your burdens and your fears;
so, even in the midst of tears,
sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
Sing praises! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins
to the One who hears our voice
and is deeply moved by our distress.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of peace, we have rejected your redemption and forged our own way. We hang between heaven and earth, caught up in our own folly. We have held fast to falsehood, deceiving others and ourselves. We have sinned against you and done violence to others. Bitterness and wrath, anger and wrangling, slander and malice consume us. Evil runs rampant in our hearts. If you, O Lord, should mark our iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you so that you may be revered. Our soul waits in hope for your word to redeem us so that we may begin anew, a new day with you. Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

People of God, hope in the Lord!
God in Christ has forgiven you!
God has redeemed us from all our iniquities
through Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us
as living bread for the life of the world.

RESPONSE: *Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

GIFT OF MUSIC

Siciliano from Sonata in Eb Major
Nancy Norris & Virginia Stern, duo pianos

J.S.Bach
arr. Weekley &
Arganbright

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: reader, Sue Van Osdel

God of daybreak,
our souls wait for your light
more than those who watch for the morning.
Let your Holy Spirit illumine our hearts
with the light of your redemption,
a new day, a new life in Christ. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.

It is he who will redeem Israel
From all its iniquities.

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

SECOND READING: John 6:35, 41-51

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the

manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

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

SERMON: The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***HYMN 729:** *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian*

**Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart;**

**Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.**

In my heart, in my heart,

**Lord, I want to be a Christian
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart;**

**Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.**

In my heart, in my heart,

**Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart;**

**Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart.**

In my heart, in my heart,

**Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart.**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart;**

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart.**

In my heart, in my heart,

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Taken from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments. We violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of

Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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

Fairest Lord Jesus
Nancy Norris & Virginia Stern, duo pianos

arr. Raney

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

*HYMN 838: *Standing on the Promises*

Standing on the promises of Christ my king,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.

Refrain:

Standing, standing,
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,

**resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God. (Refrain)**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

All Creatures of Our God and King

arr. Hopson