



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*

March 3, 2024

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Andantino

Pastorella

Russell Romine, organ

Micheal Angelo Rossi

J. G. Walther

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Messiah, Son of the Living God, I come before you, vulnerable and open, laying bare my heart and mind. You, O Lord, see me for who I am. You know my strengths and weaknesses. You know my joys and sorrows. Give me the strength to set aside my doubts and confusion. Help me remember that I am known by you and then show me how to become the person you believe that I am. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

If you ask the sky who God is,

Corday Goddard

the sky will tell you of God's reach.

If you ask the day who God is,

the sun will tell you of God's warmth.

If you ask the night who God is,

the moon will tell you of God's comfort.

"The heavens are telling the glory of God."

Are you listening?

We are listening!

We will sing of God's glory.

Let us worship Holy God.



HYMN 81

Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken (vs. 1 & 3)

Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God.

God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.

On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?

With salvation's walls surrounded, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,

well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.

Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?

Grace, so like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.



CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Holy God, some days, we are quick to declare your goodness. Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith. Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers. Some days, we are quick to trust your blessings—trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference. Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in. Forgive us for losing sight of you. Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves. We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith, but for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace. Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.



RESPONSE 595

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly Lord!



PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 19:7-10, 14, pp. 488

Matthew 16:13-20, pp. 893

Bruce Maylath, reader

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

SERMON

Praise the Mount

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

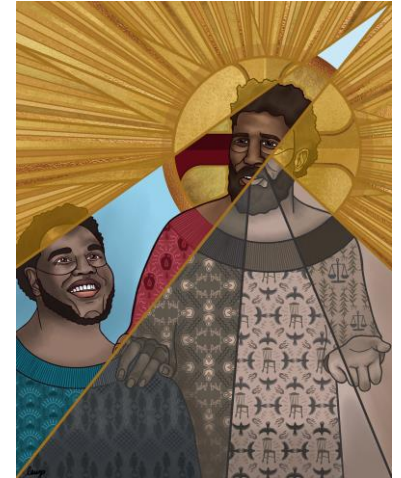


HYMN 361

O Christ, the Great Foundation

O Christ, the great foundation
on which your people stand
to preach your true salvation
in every age and land:
pour out your Holy Spirit
to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith unbroken
as long as worlds endure.

Baptized in one confession,
one church in all the earth,
we bear our Lord's impression,
the sign of second birth:
one holy people gathered
in love beyond our own,
by grace we were invited;
by grace we make you known.



Who Do You Say That I Am?

Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman
Digital painting

The Sealing of the Word

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The words spoken by the pastor bless the bread and cup on the table and all the elements that are an extension of this table.

HYMN OF APPROACH 509 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (verses 1 &2)*

All who hunger, gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.

Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed.

You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.

Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers, seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Chorale Prelude

Susan Nelson

Genesis Ringers; Tammy Olson, director

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Responding to the Word



OFFERING MESSAGE

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

OFFERTORY

Come Build a Church

Ken Medema

Sanctuary Choir; Shawn Neisen, director; Russell Romine, piano



RESPONSE 655

What Shall I Render to the Lord

What shall I ren - der to the Lord; what shall my of - fering be, for
all the gra - cious ben - e - fits God hath be - stowed on me?



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World



WORDS TO WANDER BY

Praise the Mount

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

I have stayed quiet before.
I have held my tongue
while passing mountains.
I have slipped my hands deep into pockets,
despite the music that invites me to dance.
I have glimpsed a new moon and a new love
and have acted as if it was something other than a complete, God-given miracle.
But not today.
Not today.
Today I will dance.
Today I will tap my toes all the way to heaven's gates.
Today I will point out every shade of gold and periwinkle that we pass.
Today I will talk about my faith like we talk about the weather—
early and unprompted, comfortable and unashamed.
Today I will tell you that God did such a good job with freckles, willow trees,

and your entire being.
And I will not be embarrassed by my own conviction.
I will not swallow my praise.
I have stayed quiet before,
but not today.
Today I will sing.



HYMN 394

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation (1, 3, 4)

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord and precious, binding all the church in one;
holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.

Here bestow on all your servants what they seek from you to gain;
what they gain from you, forever with the blessed to retain;
and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honor to the Father, laud and honor to the Son,
laud and honor to the Spirit, ever three and ever one:
one in might and one in glory while unending ages run!



BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fuge in G Major, WTC 1, BWV 860
Russell Romine, organ

J. S. Bach

Thank you to Jaden Argall, Zoe Booth, and Bruce Maylath for assisting us in worship and to our Welcome Team: Steve Wonderlich, Ed Deckard, Brenda Deckard, Dianne Connelly and family, and Abi Carlson, Deb Dawson, Richard Laraway, Jody Hudson, and Karen Rivers for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Russell Romine, the Genesis Ringers, directed by Tammy Olson, and the Sanctuary Choir, directed by Shawn Neisen.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FARGO

Third Sunday of Lent

March 3rd, 2024

Pi(e) Day is March 17th! The Board of Deacons is hosting Pi(e) Day this year, and have invited our friends from the neighborhood - the residents from The Graver and our homeless vets who visit the Community Resource and Referral Center (the former Dawson Insurance Building). We need lots and lots of pie! If you're able to make or buy a pie or 2 (or 3) for us, please sign up at the Volunteer Opportunities Board or at the Welcome Desk. Thank you in advance for helping to make Pi(e) Day a success!



Every Wednesday in Lent, starting February 21st, join us from 7:05pm to 7:30pm in the Jennie Roberts Room for Holden Evening Prayer.

Brief reflections will be on poetry and art of the season, *Wandering Heart: Figuring out faith with Peter*. Come and join us in the Jennie Roberts Room for this time of Lenten devotion.

Easter Flower Orders Available Now: To help us celebrate Easter, the Sanctuary will be adorned with spring flowers. You are invited to contribute to this enhancement of our worship space by purchasing a flower to be used for Easter Sunday. Order forms are available at the Welcome Desk, or in the Church Office. Orders and payments should be delivered to the office no later than noon on Monday, March 11. Thank You!

Covenant of Prayer: Prayers for Doug Williams' family upon his death on February 27, his memorial service will be in May or June; prayers for Don Hilsendager's family upon his death on February 28, his memorial service is pending for the middle of March; the people of Burnsville, MN and Kansas City, MO, as the result of recent gun violence; Sherri Stern, who is recovering from shoulder surgery; Dick Anderson (Bill Anderson's grandfather).

Will you volunteer a few hours at the Pantry? March 18th-22nd is our week to volunteer at the Emergency Food Pantry, helping to put together food boxes for families. If you're able to help, please contact Jan Harrison at jharr25@aol.com, or find her on Sunday mornings. Just a few hours make all the difference!

Collecting donations for the Emergency Food Pantry: Minnesota FoodShare is doing their annual campaign in March, where they match the collected nonperishable food items and financial support. You may bring items to the church through April 7th and place them in the green buckets in the foyer, or bring them directly to the Pantry by Tuesday, April 9th. If you wish to make a financial contribution, you may give your clearly marked check to the church or directly to the Pantry. Thank you for your generous participation!

Will you volunteer to help with funeral receptions? Families have entrusted the church at their most difficult and vulnerable times. We want to respond with our love and support. Are you able to help, from time to time, with setting up, serving and cleaning up funeral receptions? Or, perhaps, you could bring a pan of bars. You, too, guys! Please sign up at the Volunteer Opportunities Board, or you may contact Nancy Lium directly at liumn1949@gmail.com. It's a privilege to serve one another!

Find a moment of stillness in your day

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a form of silent prayer that quiets the mind and focuses attention on the presence and action of the Holy Spirit within.

Thursdays in Lent,
12:15-12:45 in the
Jennie Roberts Room

All are welcome.
No experience necessary.

*Sponsored by The Pilgrimage
and Presentation Prayer Center*



Hearing devices, as well as **large print copies of today's bulletins and 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)

FPC Officers

Session: Mindy Argall, Abi Carlson, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Tetteh Dottey, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Jeff Wilkens, and Steve Wonderlich. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, David Hoffman, Jane Mathew (moderator), Donna Rummens, Wayne Sander, Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens. **Church Treasurer:** Sherri Stern.

Church Staff

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood-*Head of Staff, Pastor*
The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Associate Pastor*
The Rev. Daniel Billings-*Parish Associate*
The Rev. Cathie Bishop-*Parish Associate*
Sally Harmon-*Organist*
Pam Burns-*Music Ministry Coordinator*
Shawn Neisen-*Adult Choir Director*
Penny Andrist-*Children's Ministry Coordinator*
Kayla Bones-*Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinator*
Jan Lundgren-*Business Manager*
Casey LeMier- *Communications & Admin Assistant*
Rick Fiebiger-*Facilities Manager*
Drew Brovold-*Custodian*

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

Got Stuff? We'll take it! We're collecting items to begin crafting our Scuba VBS decorations and set:

- Paper towel/tissue tubes
- Pool noodles, all colors
- Large plastic bowls, clear or colored
- Bead necklaces
- Tulle, any color
- Egg cartons
- Q-tips
- Loofahs
- White coffee filters, flat bottom
- Plastic bottle caps, all sizes
- Paper lanterns
- Bright colored ribbon

L: Live Stream Option, H: Hybrid, Z: Zoom
Times shown in italics indicate am.

Sunday, March 3

11:30 Fellowship

2:00 University of Jamestown Choir Concert

Monday, March 4

5:30 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 5

5:30 Mission Committee Meeting

5:30 Worship Committee Meeting (H)

6:30 Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 6

5:00 Wednesday Activities Dinner

5:00 Lay Preacher Seminar

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choir Rehearsals

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:05 Holden Evening Prayer

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 7

12:15 Centering Prayer

5:30 Nurturing Families

Friday, March 8

No Church Events

Saturday, March 9

No Church Events

Sunday, March 10

8:45 Second Sunday Activities Begin

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

Reminder: Use the QR code found in the bulletin to access the secure giving portal on our website. Also, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram!

For Your Information

February 25 Attendance: 274

217 in person

57 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$8,327.71



Church Information

Office Hours:

M-TH, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

650 2nd Ave. N.

Fargo, ND 58102

Easter Flower Order Form

To help us celebrate Easter, the Sanctuary will be adorned with spring flowers. You are invited to contribute to this enhancement of our worship space by purchasing a flower to be used for Easter Sunday.

Choose the number of plants you would like, and if you would like to offer this plant in memory/honor of someone special or to the Glory of God. If ordering more than one plant, and need more space to write, please use the back of this form.

Orders and payments should be delivered to the office **no later than noon on Monday, March 11**. Thank You!

Type of flower (6")	Price per plant	# of plants	Total cost
Easter Lilies	\$15.00 each	x	=
Tulips	\$15.00 each	x	=
Hydrangeas	\$35.00 each	x	=

You may take your plant home following the 11:00 am worship on Easter Sunday, or pick it up any time the following week.

Please **PRINT**:

In loving Memory of:

In honor of:

To the Glory of God

By (your name):
