



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.

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025 | 5 p.m.

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Masters in This Hall
Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director

arr. Jeffrey A. Hall

Still, Still, Still
Kathleen Thomas, violin; Virginia Stern, piano

arr. Chip Davis

O Holy Night
Nancy Norris and Virginia Stern, piano duo

arr. Carl Seal

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director

arr. Luther Henderson

Carol of the Bells/God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director

arr. Lloyd Larson

Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying
Elliot Sander, organ

arr. Paul Manz

WELCOME

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

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.

❖CAROL 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
very God, begotten, not created! **[Refrain]**

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! **[Refrain]**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! **[Refrain]**

❖PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of bright stars and quiet miracles, we admit that we sometimes lose our sense of awe. We hurry past mystery. We let fear close our hearts. We forget that your love is always breaking in, always reaching out for us. On this holy night, open us to wonder again. Let your light shine on the places we hide. Let your love soften what has grown rigid. Forgive us, we pray. Fill us with the joy the angels proclaimed in their song and the wonder the shepherds carried in their hearts. Amen.

❖RESPONSE 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 7)*

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

❖PASSING OF THE PEACE

GIFT OF MUSIC

Here on a Silent Night

Don Besig

Sanctuary and Proclamation Choirs;
Bryan Poyzer, directing; Elliot Sander, piano

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1, 5-14

Claudia Hansen, reader

CHRISTMAS STORY

Season of Light
by Jess Redman

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

❖CAROL 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!



OFFERING MESSAGE

Tonight's loose offering will support the Deacons' Emergency Relief Fund.

OFFERTORY

O Star

Jill Post

Jeff Olson, voice; Jill Post, clarinet; Sally Harmon, piano

❖RESPONSE

Christmas Doxology

Glo-ry be to God the Fa-ther, Glo-ry be to Christ the Son. Glo-ry to the Ho-ly Spirit,
Glo-ry to the Three-in-One. Here we of-fer to you glad-ly all the gifts that you im-part,
As we glo - ry in your Pres - ence, gi - ving from a grate-ful heart.

❖PRAYER OF DEDICATION

❖PROFESSION OF FAITH

Jesus was born to his mother, Mary.

Jesus was born because God's Spirit made it happen.

**Jesus has always been God and he also became a real human, just like us,
so he could be part of God's family on earth.**

He had the same kind of body we have

and he used his time on earth to build good healthy relationships.

**Because Jesus came to be with us and is so good and loving,
he is like a bridge between us and God.**

When God looks at me, God sees Jesus' goodness and love.

CAROL 122

Silent Night

As the carol begins, please "light" the candles located in your pew.

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright

'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;

glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:

Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light

radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;

with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:

Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Star Giving

by Ann Weems

❖CAROL 134

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;

let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;

he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,

far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

✧ **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

I Saw Three Ships
Elliot Sander, organ

arr. Sander

Thank you to: the Bigwood family on livestream and soundboard, and our Welcome Team: Steve Wonderlich, Virginia Stern, and Toby & Paula Christensen and family for taking such good care of us this evening.

A special thank you to our musicians: Sally Harmon, Nancy Norris, Jeff Olson, Jill Post, Elliot Sander, Virginia Stern, Kathleen Thomas, the Proclamation Choir directed by Rusty Bender, the Sanctuary Choir directed by Bryan Poyzer, and the St. Andrew's Brass & Westminster Ringers both directed by Jill Post.

The poinsettias adorning our Sanctuary today have been given...

In Loving Memory of...	By...
Chester & Myrna Ahlin, L. J. & Virginia Boekelheide	Thomas & Jane Ahlin
Bob & Edith Dawson, Chuck Dawson, Gary Dawson	Tom & Georgia Dawson Family; Kathy Fox Family; and Steve & Vicki Dawson Family
Jacob Dawson, Gerry & Beverly Nathe	Vicki & Steve Dawson Family
Doug Froelich & Our Parents	Nan & Andy Froelich
Paul Gulbrandson; Do & Tod Gunkelman	Sally & David Harmon
Douglas Harnisch, John Harnisch, Maurice & Roberta Petitmaire, Robert & Wilhelmina Harnisch, and Carson Glore	Roberta Harnisch
Mark Holman, Robert Aspelund, Kathryn Rosendahl, Jim Rosendahl, Oliver Holman, and Inez Holman	Bobbie Holman
Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Larew	Donald E. Larew
Vicki Laraway and Jane Mathew	P.E.O. BE Chapter
Our parents and grandparents	Jeff & Amy Wilkens
In Honor of...	By...
Pastor Mary Holtey and Penny Andrist	Thomas & Jane Ahlin
our congregation, with my love & gratitude	Rev. Mary Holtey
our children & grandchildren	Ted & Barb Kessel
Richard & Charlotte Rufer	Carolyn Sayre
Rev. Mary Holtey's service to this Church	Ken & Marla Wagenman
To the Glory of God	By...
	Rachel & Troy Schmidt Family