



# Wandering Heart

*"And I hope"*

*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 31, 2024 | Easter Sunday**

## **We Gather in Christ**

### **PRELUDE**

*Fantasia on "Lyra Davidica"*  
Alex Swanson, guest organist

Rex Koury

### **WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*We thank you for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. May His triumph over the grave inspire us to live with purpose, compassion, and unwavering devotion to your kingdom. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.*



### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Yesterday we thought death had won.

**Yesterday we thought all was lost.**

Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

**But not today.**

Today we know that love has won.

**Today we know that hope is real.**

Today we know that Christ is here.

**We have a reason to hope.**

We have a reason to sing!

**Alleluia!**

Alleluia!

**Christ is risen today.**

**FANFARE**

*Fanfare for Easter*

arr. Jill Post

St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director



**HYMN 233**

*The Day of Resurrection*

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad,  
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.

From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,  
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Let hearts be purged of evil that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light,  
and listening to his accents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own "All hail!" and hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful; let earth its song begin;  
the round world keep high triumph and all that is therein.  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord has risen, our joy that has no end.



**CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

**Risen Lord, like the women who came to your tomb as the first day of the week was dawning and found it empty, we have such good news to tell. But we have heard this news before. How often have we returned to daily routines as if Easter changes nothing? Forgive our half-hearted witness. Free us from the bindings of fear or death. Fill us with the light of resurrection and send us into the world to proclaim in word and deed that we have seen You, our Lord!**

Friends, believe in the Good News of the Gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.**

Christ is Risen!

**He is Risen Indeed!**



**RESPONSE 581**

*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**

**ANTHEM**

*Empty Now*

Joseph Martin

Sanctuary Choir; St. Andrew's Brass; Krista Clusiau, flute; Catherine Tesch, clarinet;  
Benji Trumbo, timpani; Shawn Neisen, director; Alex Swanson, piano

## The Word

### SCRIPTURE

*Luke 24:1-12, pp. 964*

Claudia Hansen, reader (9am)

*Whirl Story Bible pg. 410*

Bruce Maylath, reader (11am)

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

### SERMON

*And I Hope*

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood



### HYMN 234

*Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!

God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness,  
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;  
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen.

All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying  
from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,  
with the royal feast of feasts comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection!

Neither could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,  
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal:  
but today, among your own, you appear, bestowing  
your deep peace, which evermore passes human knowing.



### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We may weep through the longest nights. We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers. We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more. But today, we are a people of hope. We believe in new beginnings. We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death. We believe that Jesus abides among us, healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world. We believe that a tomb could not hold him. We believe that the sun does rise. We believe that Peter was there with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed. We believe that the story is not over yet, for God is among us. Today we are a people of hope.**

### 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.**

## Responding to the Word



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

**OFFERTORY**

*Gloria*

Kevin McChesney

Westminster Ringers; Jeff Olson, directing



**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



**WORDS TO WANDER BY**

*Easter Morning*

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

I cannot stay away on Easter Morning.

Like Peter,

I would run if I could.

Stop the car,

pump my arms,

take the church steps two at a time,

all to know—

Did it happen?

Did it really happen?

Is evil no match for love?

I'd slide down the center aisle.

I'd grab the mic to ask

the angels,

the heavens,

the children,

Were the stories true?

And in response, the choir would sing, "Alleluia."

The children would flower the cross.

The preacher would tell me the stone was rolled away.

The people would pass the peace,

and welcome strangers,

and make room in the pews.

And with faith [beyond fear],

I would hope.

For I imagine that all of that ordinary holiness

would be enough for Peter,

and it would be enough for me.

*If you would like to sing Hallelujah! with the choir, please move to the chancel steps during this hymn. Copies of the chorus will be ready for you in the loft.*



**HYMN 245:**

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today!*

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia! All creation join to say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, Ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!  
Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!  
Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Once he died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!  
Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!



**BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE**

*"Hallelujah!" from Messiah*  
Greg Post, piccolo trumpet; Kevin Thomas, timpani

G.F. Handel

**POSTLUDE**

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*  
Alex Swanson, organist

Rex Koury

*Thank you to Katie Bigwood, Tom Bigwood, Claudia Hansen, and Bruce Maylath for assisting us in worship and to our Welcome Team: Elaine Rudd, Deb Dawson, Virginia Stern, Jane Mathew, David Hoffman, Mary Devig, Donna Rummens, Jan Carlson, and Fred & Jody Hudson for taking such good care of us this morning.*

*A special thank you to our musicians: Jill Post conducting the St. Andrew's Brass; Jeff Olson conducting the Westminster Ringers; Shawn Neisen and the Sanctuary Choir; guest instrumentalists Krista Clusiau, Catherine Tesch, Greg Post, Benji Trumbo and Kevin Thomas; and our guest organist, Alex Swanson.*

**The Flowers adorning our Sanctuary  
this Easter Sunday have been given...**

<b>In Loving Memory of...</b>	<b>By...</b>
Ed Anderson	Marion Anderson
Ashley and Lucas Anderson	Jon & Nikki and Michael & Sarah Anderson
Christopher E. Deckard	Ed & Brenda Deckard
Glenn Filipi	Patricia Filipi
Ross & Peg Robson, Sandy Mathew, Rev. William Yeager, Loran Guenther, Edith Dawson, and our parents	Bruce & Lorraine Furness
Lloyd (Andy), Hatti, William, and Richard Gompf	Jim Gompf

<b>In Loving Memory of...</b>	<b>By...</b>
Stephen I Morse and Elmer & Phyllis Haak	Tim, Linda, and Taaren Haak, and Leah & Andrew Beck
Gordon, Helen, Raven, and Brian Hansen	Claudia, Roger, and Cindy Hansen
Paul Gulbrandson and Do & Tod Gunkelman	Sally Harmon
Our parents	Jan & Fraser Harrison
Doug & Evelyn Hoffman and Guy Sander	David Hoffman & Wayne Sander
Mark Holman, Kathryn & Jim Rosendahl, Bob Aspelund, Oliver & Inez Holman	Bobbie Holman
Arlo & Eleanor Lindsay	Ann Lindsay Howard
Alan Kenien	Janet Kenien & Family
Peggy Gaynor and A.J. & Mildred Parsons Larew	Don Larew
Phil Martin	Gwen Martin
Clyde & Carroll Maylath, Frank & Jayne Turk	Bruce & AnneMarie Maylath
Reba & Wilson Laird and Lue & Neal McClure	Brian & Dorothy McClure
John & Jennifer Resell	Georgia Resell & Family
Our parents	Sue & Tom Van Osdel

<b>In Honor of...</b>	<b>By...</b>
Pastor Mary and Pastor Sarah	<i>Anonymous</i>
Sue & Tom Van Osdel	<i>Anonymous</i>
Pastor Dan & Lori Billings and Marilyn Olson	Becky Billings & Joel Hagen
Our parents	Ed & Brenda Deckard
Our children and grandchildren	Bruce & Lorraine Furness
Monna Rae Morse	Tim, Linda, and Taaren Haak, and Leah & Andrew Beck
Our family	Jan & Fraser Harrison
Adolph & Mae Blomquist, John & Elizabeth Resell	Georgia Resell & Family

<b>To the Glory of God...</b>	<b>By...</b>
	Mark & Ruth DeRuyter
	Steve & Terri Follingstad
	Dick & Vicki Laraway
	Judy Rippentrop