



A Christmas Eve Recital

9:30pm | December 24, 2025

Variations on "Hyfrydol" arr. Benton Price
Rusty Bender, organ

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. McDonald & Nelson
Jayci Lawrence, cello; Elliot Sander, piano

What Child Is This arr. Pechtl
Nick Winistorfer, voice; Matthew Pechtl, piano

Go, Tell It on the Mountain arr. Behnke
Sally Harmon, organ

In the Bleak Midwinter arr. Holst
Matthew Pechtl, violin; Rusty Bender, piano

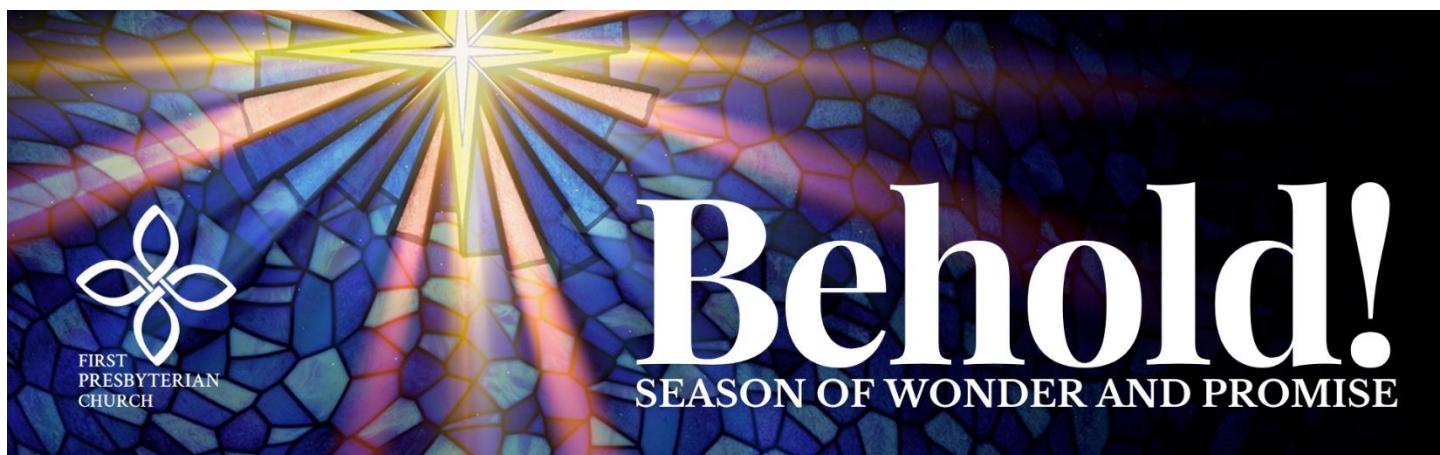
Mary, Did You Know? arr. Nancy Frese Tabb
Sam Johnson, voice; Krista Clusiau, piano

A Manger Scene in Several Variations arr. Pechtl
Matthew Pechtl, organ

Three Carols in 6/8 Time arr. Smith & Snyder
Krista Clusiau, flute; Sally Harmon, piano

Coventry Carol arr. Dan Davison
Men's Quartet: Sam Johnson, Jack Lawrence, Kevin Thomas, Mike Wavra
Elliot Sander, organ

Angels from the Realms of Glory arr. John Innes
Elliot Sander, organ



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 | 10 p.m.

We Gather in Christ

WELCOME

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

OPENING WORDS

Star Giving
by Ann Weems

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

✧ **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 *Midnight Noel* arr. Mark Hayes
Sam Johnson, voice; Krista Clusiau, piano

The Word

GOSPEL LESSON *Luke 2:1-20, pp. 933* Claudia Hansen, reader
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 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!

❖ PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The Heidelberg Catechism
adapted from questions 35 & 36*

Jesus “was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary” which means, that the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David’s true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin. For this reason, the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit me because Christ is my mediator and, in God's sight, he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness the sinfulness in which I was conceived.

GIFT OF MUSIC

O Holy Night

arr. Ed Lojeski

Claudia Hansen, handbell solo; Sally Harmon, piano

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

Tonight’s loose offering will support the Deacons’ Emergency Relief Fund. You may leave your offering in the plates at the entrances or give online at firstpresfargo.org/donate. God bless you.

The Birth of 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.

THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

THE TOLLING OF THE BELLS

Bearing the Word into the World

❖ 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, Dick Laraway, Toby Christensen, and all of our ushers for taking such good care of us this evening.

A special thank you to our musicians: Rusty Bender, Krista Clusiau, Claudia Hansen, Sally Harmon, Sam Johnson, Jack Lawrence, Matthew Pechtl, Bryan Poyzer, Elliot Sander, Kevin Thomas, and Mike Wavra.

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