



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.*

We Gather in Christ

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the Resurrection, you open the tomb and invite us to sing and dance in the new life you give us. In Jesus Christ, whose wounds are not erased but glorified in resurrection, touch our wounds that they may be transformed into channels of healing for others. Holy Spirit, breathe into us the power to forgive so that all may have new life. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

*Variations on "The Strife Is O'er"
The National Spiritual Anthem of Ukraine
(see text on back page)
Sally Harmon, organist*

arr. Linker

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia! Celebrate God in this sacred space!

Celebrate God in all places under heaven!

Give praise for God's mighty deeds!

Give praise for God's resurrecting power!

Praise God with a fanfare of trumpets.

Praise God with the harp and the cello!

Praise God with tambourines and dancing!

Praise God with flutes and guitars!

Praise God with cymbals and drums!

Let everything with life and breath praise God!

***HYMN 236:** *The Strife is O'er*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
let shouts of holy joy outburst.
Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped;
Christ rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
from death's dread sting thy servants free,
that we may live, and sing to thee:
Alleluia!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

When we keep our fears and faults locked up inside us, it is hard to be healed and receive new life. So let us open ourselves to God in confession, trusting the Lord's desire to give us peace.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and help us to find our voice. When we are afraid to forgive and to love again, forgive us and give us the power to forgive. When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority, join with the weak to make us all strong.

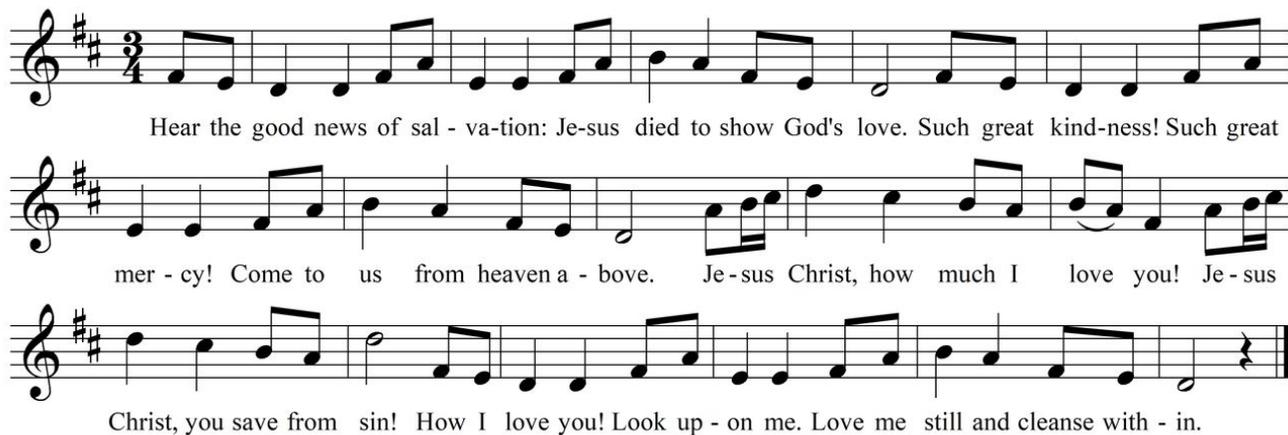
When we are confined by our hurts, touch us with your wounded hands and set us free. When we are locked behind our doubts and fears, pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace. Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Christ comes with healing light into our locked places and shadowy hurts, resurrecting our spirits and breathing into us new life. As God's own forgiven people, go to bring peace, forgiveness, and new life to the world in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***RESPONSE**

Hear the Good News of Salvation



Hear the good news of sal - va-tion: Je-sus died to show God's love. Such great kind-ness! Such great mer - cy! Come to us from heaven a - bove. Je-sus Christ, how much I love you! Je - sus Christ, you save from sin! How I love you! Look up - on me. Love me still and cleanse with - in.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

How Can I Keep From Singing?
Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director;
Krista Clusiau, flute

arr. Ellingboe

CHILDREN'S TIME

The Word

Penny Andrist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lisa McEvers

Living God, as the risen Christ came into the locked room of the first disciples, may your Word enter into us, by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we who have not seen may yet believe. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Psalm 150

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

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

SECOND READING: John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I

see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

SERMON

***HYMN 250:** *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

***PROFESSION OF FAITH:** *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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



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

OFFERTORY

Meditation on "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" arr. Behnke

***RESPONSE 609**

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings 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

***HYMN 239:** *Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!*

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today! Death's mighty stone is rolled away.
Let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

arr. Willan

The National Spiritual Anthem of Ukraine

Lord, oh the Great and Almighty,
Protect our beloved Ukraine,
Bless her with freedom and light
Of your holy rays.

We pray, oh Lord Almighty,
Protect our beloved Ukraine,
Grant our people and country
All your kindness and grace.

With learning and knowledge enlighten
Us, your children small,
In love pure and everlasting
Let us, oh Lord, grow

Bless us with freedom, bless us with wisdom,
Guide into kind world,
Bless us, oh Lord, with good fortune
Forever and evermore.



April 24, 2022

Covenant Of Prayer: Jennifer; Hannah; those who are experiencing homelessness in our community; our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya; and the people of Ukraine.

Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer: If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include his/her name.

Serving dinner at Churches United resumes! Starting May 12, we resume providing the evening meal every second Thursday of the month at Micah's Mission (the shelter for Churches United for the Homeless). Since COVID, they have tighter restrictions for the number of people in the kitchen. We need 4 food preparers (3:00-5:00) and 4 servers (5:00-7:00). You may do both, if you wish! A sign-up sheet is on the Volunteer Opportunities Board in the Foyer. Help us jump start this longstanding partnership with Churches United!

Children and Youth Worship Service: Mark **May 1** on your calendar as a "don't miss" Sunday! The children and youth of First Presbyterian will plan and deliver a special service based on the Luke 15 story of the prodigal son. You can expect liturgy and sermon written by youth, music from all ages, bells, a special children's message, and noisy offering – **save your change to make a change!** This service also includes confirmation, a baptism and presentation of bibles to third graders. Do you see what we mean by "not missing it"? To top it all off (*we all know the end of the story is a feast upon the return of the lost son*), the service will be followed by a barbeque feast including confirmation cake! The EduCon committee is hosting this free meal for everyone. It will be a day of great celebration!

An opportunity to consider: Do you have a background in finance or accounting? Are you looking for a way to get involved and meet new people? As things return to "normal", the Support & Endowment Board is looking for a few new members. The Support & Endowment (S & E) Board administers the endowment plan to best serve the activities, programs, and missions of First Presbyterian Church. The Board meets 6 times per year (Zoom option available), and members are elected for 3-year terms. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Mary at mholtey@firstpresfargo.org.

Reminder: Use the QR code found in the bulletin to access the secure giving portal on our website!

Wednesday evenings at First Presbyterian are busy!

Children arriving for choirs sometimes need the doors opened for them, as not all members have key fobs for access. We are looking for a volunteer or two to hang out near the West entry on **Wednesdays from 5:15 to 7:15 pm** to help shepherd our young members in and out. It is important to keep children indoors until their parents or other adult arrives for them. It is an easy two hours to sit and visit with other church members, check your email on your phone, perhaps water the plants in the entry, etc. Can you help? Questions? Contact any staff member.

PW News: The PW is proud to announce we will be offering a University of Jamestown scholarship this May. If you are interested please contact Kayla Bones or Penny Andrist for the application.

The YWCA shelter is collecting new pillows. They are to be left in the coat room. This month the focus for the YWCA box in our coat room is allergy medication (Claritin or Benadryl). Check the chart on our board to see what has been contributed the past months.

Town Hall Is Back!! After two years, the Town Hall lectures from 2020 will be held this spring. Mark your calendars for the lecture held **May 2 at 10:30 am at the Holiday Inn**. If you had purchased season tickets for the 2020 season, you are good to go. If you don't know or would like to purchase tickets, please contact Marcia Foss: 701-840-1986 or ndmomfoss@gmail.com.

Monday, May 2 – Spencer Stone

For those who had purchased the luncheon tickets, a boxed lunch will be available for you to pick up and eat during the Q & A period or take home with you. With the pandemic, we are unable to have the sit down, served luncheon. Masks are required to attend the lecture. Think Spring and think Town Hall!

Synod School: By now, you may have heard that Triennium has been canceled this summer. The Presbytery Youth Connection Team has decided to offer a similar, regional opportunity. Synod School is **July 24-29** at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. The cost for 6-8th graders is \$260, \$320 for 9-12th grade, and \$395 for adults. This is an event that is available to all ages, but has separate tracks for children, youth, and adults. You can find more information and online registration at <https://lakesandprairies.org/engaging-leaders/synod-school/> When registering in the Put Me By box, please enter PNP youth. Once you have registered, please contact Kayla Bones (kbones@firstpresfargo.org).

Book Exchange: First Presbyterian will be hosting a book exchange on **May 22** to share books among our members, both children and adults. The goal is to get some "new" books to enjoy over the summer. Please bring books to share and place them in the Holy Buckets. Books will be set out on **Sunday, May 22** for all to take.

Separate Checks Please: When making multiple payments/donations, please write separate checks for each. For example, when making your pledge payment and paying your Per Capita, write 2 checks instead of totaling the amounts and writing one check. Thank you.

Pillows! Pillows! We continue to shower the YWCA shelter with new pillows that each person staying at the shelter gets to keep when they leave. May these women and children always have a safe and soft place to lay their heads at night. You may bring new pillows to the West Coat Room.

Pew Pride: Sometimes accidents happen! If a spill has occurred in your pew, and you are unable to clean it up without cleaning supplies, please alert an usher so that it can be promptly cleaned following worship. Our lovely new pew cushions will stay lovely much longer with everyone's help.

Hearing devices and large print copies of today's 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.

FPC Officers

Session: Kim Carter, Lisa Edison-Smith, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Bruce Furness, Dick Henderson, Ryan Johnston, Kurt Kooyer, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Scott Swanholm, Paula Thomas, Kevin Tobosa, Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens.

Deacons: Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens.

Church Staff

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-Head of Staff, Associate Pastor

Sally Harmon-Music Coordinator & Organist

Bryan Poyzer-Adult Choir Director

Jan Lundgren-Business Manager

Ley Bouchard-Administrative Assistant

Penny Andrist-Children's Ministry Coordinator

Kayla Bones-Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinator

Rick Fiebiger-Facilities Manager

Drew Brovold-Custodian

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

L: Live Stream Option, H: Hybrid, Z: Zoom

Sunday, April 24

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, April 25

5:00 Stewardship Committee

Tuesday, April 26

8:30 Bulletin Articles Due

1:00 Staff Meeting

Wednesday, April 27

9:00 Men's Group

1:00 Library Committee Meeting

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 2-6 Choir / 7-12 Choir

7:00 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, April 28

No Church Events

Friday, April 29

No Church events

Saturday, April 30

No Church Events

Sunday, May 1

9:15 Sunday School for All

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

For Your Information

Holy Week Worship Attendance:

Maundy Thursday Worship, April 14: 63 in person;

47 households livestreamed

Good Friday Worship, April 15: 81 in person;

49 households livestreamed

Easter Sunday, April 17: 429 in person;

77 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$4,271.



Church Information

Office Hours:

M-TH, 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org