

May 9, 2021: 6th Sunday of Easter

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 Gather in Christ

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, help us to love others as Christ has loved us. Bring us into the spiritual joy of living our lives as your friend, and teach us to abide in your love, that we may show that love to the world. **Amen.**

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing
Sally Harmon, organ

arr. Hobby

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to our God a new song.

God has done marvelous things!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

Let the world and its people sing together for joy!

Let us worship God!

HYMN 475: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;

tune my heart to sing thy grace;

streams of mercy, never ceasing,

call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,

sung by flaming tongues above;

praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,

mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer;

hither by thy help I'm come;

and I hope, by thy good pleasure,

safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,

wandering from the fold of God;

he, to rescue me from danger,

interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor

daily I'm constrained to be!

Let that grace now, like a fetter,

bind my wandering heart to thee.

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We have been called to follow Christ by obeying his one commandment:
that we love one another as he has loved us.
Let us confess how we have fallen short of that love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled with your joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Christ loves us so much that he laid down his life for us and calls us his friends.
If we can forgive our friends, how much more does Christ forgive us!

RESPONSE 240: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to His Name.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Penny Andrist

GIFT OF MUSIC

Sometimes
Shelley Zietz, soloist; Sally Harmon, piano

Mancini

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: Roberta Mohagen

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, in the reading of your Word,
that we would hear what you have to say to us today.
May your Holy Spirit be poured out upon us; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gained him victory.
The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness

to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

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

SECOND READING John 15:9-15 (Whirl p. 386)

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

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

SERMON: The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

HYMN 482: *Baptized in Water*

**Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
cleansed by the blood of Christ our King;
heirs of salvation,
trusting the promise,
faithfully now God's praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our King;
one with his rising,
freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our King;
born of the Spirit,
we are God's children;
joyfully now God's praises we sing.**

A SERVICE OF BAPTISM: Colter John Briones, son of Aimee Resell & Christopher Briones;
Karen Rivers, presiding elder.

PRESENTATION

Parents: Do you desire that Colter John be baptized? **I do.**

Relying on God's grace, do you promise to live the Christian faith, and to teach that faith to your child? **I do.**

Sponsors: Do you promise, through prayer and example, to support and encourage Colter to be a faithful Christian? **I do.**

Congregation: Do we, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Colter by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging him to know and follow Christ and to be faithful members of his church? **We do.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

RENUNCIATIONS (*parents and congregation*)

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Savior, trusting in his grace and love? **I do.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his Word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

PROFESSION: *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 by 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.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, Eternal God,...

THE BAPTISM

LAYING ON OF HANDS

WELCOME

Colter has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. Let us welcome the newly baptized.

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into Christ's church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.

BAPTISMAL RESPONSE: You Have Put on Christ

You have put on Christ, in Christ you have been bap - tized.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

HYMN 14: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light: (Refrain)

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: (Refrain)

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,

**friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild: (Refrain)**

**For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven: (Refrain)**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing

arr. Young