



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.

December 03, 2023

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. McDonald/Sharp Nelson
Jayci Lawrence, Cello; Sally Harmon, Piano

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

God of promise, you made a commitment to Joseph that you would make Jesus a savior to all. Renew your commitment with us, so that all may know the saving grace of your son, Jesus. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Jessica and Bryan Poyzer

✧ CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

God calls us and wakes us from our tired apathy.

God has a plan, don't be afraid!

We are a part of the plan. God needs us,

Not to follow the rules, but to stand out in grace.

It will be hard and other will judge us.

But who can stand in the way of God's plan?

Today we will renew our strength.

Let us worship God!

❖ **HYMN 93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.

Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

❖ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

God of love, Your angel visited Joseph in his sleep, and revealed the work of the Holy Spirit to him. We ignore our dreams and fail to discern the Holy Spirit's movement in our lives or to perceive the coming of your salvation. Resolving to follow our own plans, we ignore your angels' commands. Wake our spirits to your purposes so that like Joseph, we respond in obedience.

❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

The Yearning

arr. Craig Courtney

Sanctuary Choir; Shawn Neisen, Director

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Andrist

St. Andrew's Brass & Jeff Olson

❖ **RESPONSE**

Rejoice, Rejoice, O Caesar

Re-joyce, re-joyce, O Caes-ar. In spite of all your fear, the
Ho-ly One is com-ing, His time is draw-ing near. The
babe whose name is Jes - us A time of peace will bring. And
all will feel his bless-ing, A diff-'rent kind of king.

The Hanging of the Greens

PARAMENTS AND EVERGREENS

Brian McClure

Deck the Hall

arr. Sammy Nestico

St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, Director

NATIVITY

Bruce Maylath

Nativity Rap Second Sunday Band

HYMN 137

He Came Down



1. He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love; he
2. He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light; he



came down that we may have love; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
came down that we may have light;

STAR

Maria Weller

Stars Without Number

Charles Anthony Silvestri

We flicker...

We burn...

We shimmer...

Shine!

Stars beyond all number

Dance in countless Heavens;

Soaring and spinning in slow anticipation,

Dancing as we burn and wait...

Which burning brother, which burning sister,

Chosen by the Dancing Master,

Will brighter burn than any star

Has ever shown in any age

Or span of universe?

Oh, I could be that Light,

For shepherds as for kings this night,

Guiding to that humble space

Where Shadow must give way to Grace;

Where Father gives the gift of Son,

Creation and Creator one!

We watch...

We wait...

We wish...

We shine!

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

arr. Pam Burns

Nathan Bolluyt and Eleanor Torpey, Duet;
Penny Andrist, Guitar; Lauren Bontje, Violin

✦ **HYMN 152**

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright?

What star is this, with beams so bright, more love - ly than the noon - day
While out - ward signs the star dis - plays, an in - ward light the Lord con -
light? 'Tis sent to an - nounce a new - born king, glad ti - dings of our God to bring.
veys and urg - es them, with ten - der might, to seek the giv - er of the light.

DOVE

Sentimentale

Deb Haarsager, Flute; Sally Harmon; Piano
Sarah Meester, Dancer

Kayla Bones
Claude Bolling

✦ **HYMN 378**

We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom (Verses 1 and 4)

We wait the peaceful kingdom, when wolf and lamb shall lie
In gentleness and friendship without a fear or sigh,
When lion shall be grazing, when snake shall never strike;
A little child shall lead us both strong and weak alike.

That little child shall lead us to walk the chosen way,
To share the peaceful kingdom, to greet God's newborn day.
The child born in a stable is sent to break our chains,
To bring through word and table the day when justice reigns.

GIFTS

Jane Roggensack

✦ **HYMN 694**

Great God of Every Blessing

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation, the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending your covenant embrace.
In Christ we are one body; each member has a part:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search.
transforming broken people into the holy church.
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

Responding to the Word

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.



MINUTE FOR MISSION

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

Jody Hudson

OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Tom Camp

St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, Director

✦ RESPONSE

While We Are Waiting, Come



While we are wait - ing, come; _____ while we are wait - ing, come. _____

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come. _____

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

✦ HYMN 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

✦ **BENEDICTION**

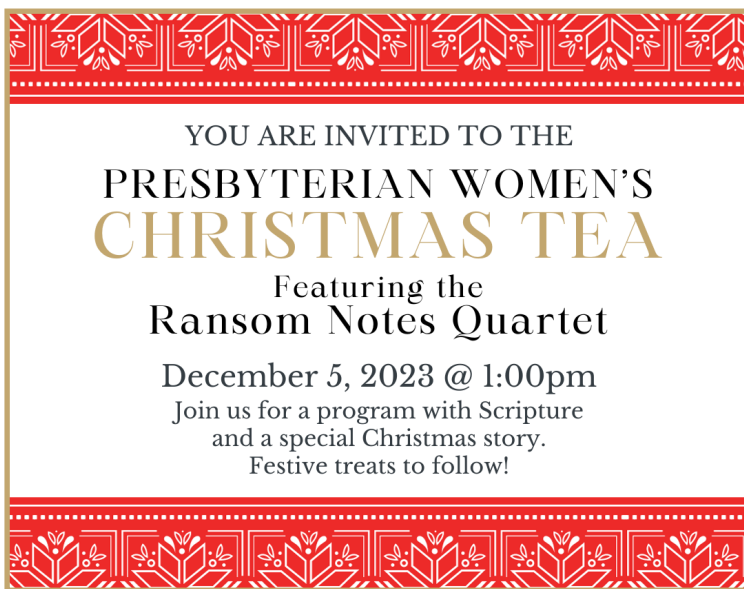
POSTLUDE

Fantasy on O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Sally Harmon, Organ

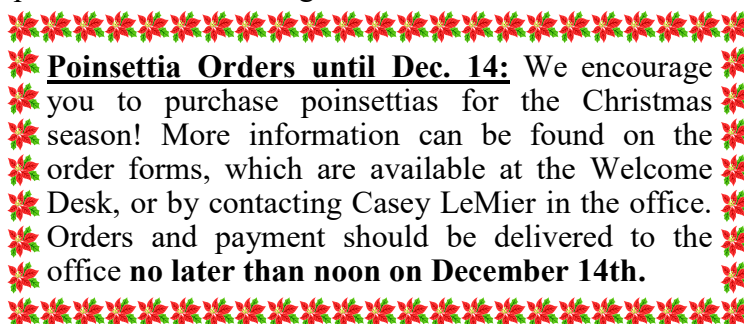
arr. Evan Copley



Festival of Trees: This year's Missions will include the Mitten Tree & Sox Box, the Food Tree, the Toothbrush Tree, and new this year, **the Rainbow Bridge Tree.** Rainbow Bridge is the only Safe Exchange/Supervised Parenting Time Center in the FM area. These are tags on the tree for you to take: **items for Gingerbread Houses:** Graham crackers, candy, frosting, gingerbread kits; **Cookie Decorating Supplies:** packages of 6 sugar cookies, frosting, decorations; **gift cards** for parents to buy gifts for their children; **monetary contributions** for staff to enhance the holiday experience for families. Visit the trees in the west foyer for further details on ALL these mission opportunities.



2023 Year End Giving: Please have all contributions intended for the 2023 giving year turned in to the church office by Tuesday, January 2nd. The church office will be open from 9:00AM through 4:00PM that day. You can also use the drop box by the office door if you arrive after office hours. Any contributions received after that date will be recorded on your 2024 giving record. If you would like to know the balance of your 2023 pledge, please email Jan Lundgren.



Covenant Of Prayer: Roberta Harnisch and family upon the death of her husband, Doug Harnisch. A memorial service is planned for January 20 in the sanctuary.

Photo & Information Updates: Take a new photo for this year's holiday cards? If so, please email a copy to the church office at admin.assistant@firstpresfargo.org, or bring a hard copy into the office to be scanned. This is also an opportunity to make sure all your information is up to date! The office is hoping to put out a Hard Copy Directory in early 2024.

Paraments for Advent: The figure of the shepherd carries mixed symbolism for the community of faith. On the one hand, the shepherd personifies those whose lives are lived on the fringes of human community. Shepherds were not in the mainstream of society. They lived isolated lives, keeping company only with sheep and other shepherds. God chose to interrupt lives like theirs with the bright light of the Christmas star. God chose to bless people like them with the light of the world. The color of the banner is blue, expressive of hope. Advent's hope comes not only in remembering how God became man in Jesus Christ, the hope is also in the figure of the Good Shepherd, who promised to come again to judge with love. Past, present and future come together in the blue hues of Advent and in God's startling light seen in the star and in the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Puzzle Exchange: You can start bringing puzzles in to the office anytime. On December 10, look for the big table full of puzzles in the Jennie Roberts Room and trade for a puzzle you've never done before!



Carols by Candlelight: Join us on Sunday evening, December 17 at 6:30 pm for Carols by Candlelight. This year's theme is *Sing We Now of Christmas* and will feature all of our church's vocal and instrumental ensembles and congregational carol-singing in a celebration of word and seasonal music. Christmas goodies will be served following the service.

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.

Wi-Fi: Wi-Fi is available throughout the church. (password: community650)

FPC Officers

Session: Abi Carlson, Kim Carter, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Tetteh Dottey, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Donna Rummens, Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens.

Church Treasurer: Sherri Stern.

Church Staff

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood-*Head of Staff, Pastor*

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Associate Pastor*

The Rev. Daniel Billings-*Parish Associate*

The Rev. Cathie Bishop-*Parish Associate*

Sally Harmon-*Organist*

Pam Burns-*Music Ministry Coordinator*

Shawn Neisen-*Adult Choir Director*

Penny Andrist-*Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Kayla Bones-*Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinator*

Jan Lundgren-*Business Manager*

Casey LeMier- *Communications & Admin Assistant*

Rick Fiebiger-*Facilities Manager*

Drew Brovold-*Custodian*

Staff emails are: (first initial and last name of person)

@firstpresfargo.org

L: Live Stream Option, H: Hybrid, Z: Zoom
Times shown in italics indicate am.

Sunday, December 3

11:30 Meatball Dinner & Fellowship!

1:00 Bingo

7:00 FMAYS Concert

Monday, December 4

5:30 Building & Grounds Meeting

Tuesday, December 5

12:15 S&E Committee Meeting (H)

1:00 PW Christmas Tea

5:30 Mission Committee Meeting

5:30 Worship Committee (H)

Wednesday, December 6

5:00 Wednesday Activities Dinner

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 7

5:30 Nurturing Families

Friday, December 8

No Church Events

Saturday, December 9

No Church Events

Sunday, December 10

8:45 Second Sunday Activities

10:30 Second Sunday Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

Reminder: Use the QR code found in the bulletin to access the secure giving portal on our website. Also, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram!

For Your Information

November 19 Attendance: 213

173 in person

40 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$28,611.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

M-TH, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

Cookie Walk

Dec
17



Cookie
Donations
Needed!

Please bring donations packaged in clear baggies to the Jennie Roberts Room by December 16 at noon.



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

We encourage you to purchase poinsettias for the Christmas season! A printed list of the names of the donors and the names of the persons being honored or remembered will be included in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.

Please **PRINT** your name; indicate how many poinsettias you would like, and if you would like to offer this flower in memory of, or in honor of someone special. Orders are due to the office **no later than noon on December 14. Payment is due with your order.** *Please write a separate check for your poinsettia; do not include in your offering.* Thank you!

You can pick up your poinsettia at the church **after Christmas Eve worship on Sunday, Dec. 24**, or during office hours any day after that. Office hours are 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, M-TH.

Your Name (**PRINT**): _____

Size Options

Please PRINT. If more space is needed, please use back of order form.

6" Poinsettia (\$15.00)

To the glory of God

In memory of _____

In honor of _____