



A Child is Given

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FARGO, ND

DECEMBER 24, 2022 | CHRISTMAS EVE | 5PM

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.*

We Gather in Christ

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God, on this holy night we gather—to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

GIFTS OF MUSIC

<i>Traditions of Christmas</i>	arr. Davis
Kathleen Thomas, violin; Sally Harmon, piano	
<i>Gesu Bambino</i>	Pietro Yon
Sam Johnson, tenor; Krista Clusiau, piano	
<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	arr. Sherman
Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director	
<i>He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child</i>	arr. Burroughs
<i>God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen</i>	arr. Henderson
<i>I Saw Three Ships</i>	arr. Henderson
St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director	

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy.

To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

***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]

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age--worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from sin, through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***RESPONSE**

Love Has Come



Love has come and nev-er will leave us! Love is life ev-er - last-ing and free.



Love is Je-sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing.



Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!___

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

Go, Tell it on the Mountain
Christmas Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director

arr. Work

The Word

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Song of the Stars
Sally Lloyd-Jones. author
Paintings by Alison Jay

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

***CAROLS 143, 123, 113, 119**

Angels Medley

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

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!

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the-angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

***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.

Background: Soon after Luther posted his ninety-five theses, Lutherans and Reformed Christians established The Heidelberg Catechism to help settle their divisions. Their work was completed in 1562. Each question of the catechism is personal, addressed to "you." Its theology is both catholic, universal in appeal, and evangelical, setting forth the gospel of Jesus Christ. Providing a basis for peaceful coexistence between Lutheran and Reformed Christians. The influence of the Heidelberg Catechism in the church's preaching and teaching continues to be felt in Germany, Austria, Holland, Hungary, parts of Eastern Europe, Scotland, Canada, and the United States.

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.

CAROL 122

Silent Night

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.

Responding to the Word

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Every Year

A Poem by Rev. Sarah Speed

A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org



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

OFFERING

Tonight’s loose offering will support the Deacon’s Emergency Relief Fund.

OFFERTORY *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. Krug

Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director

*RESPONSE 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain!*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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

Joy to the World!

Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Burkhardt

The poinsettias adorning our Sanctuary today have been given by...

Name	Intention
The Ahlin Family	In memory of Chester & Myrna Ahlin, L.J. & Virginia Boekelheide
Ed & Marion Anderson	In memory of parents, brothers & sisters
Katie Bigwood	In memory of Mr. Patrick Moore
Tom & Sarah Bigwood	In memory of Robert & Margaret Norman, Nolia & Lawrence Keltner, Edith & Thomas Bigwood
Steve & Gay Blazek	In memory of Jill Blazek
Marlys K. Borkhuis	In memory of parents, Russel & Marjorie Borkhuis, and brother, Roger Borkhuis
Toby & Paula Christensen	To the glory of God
Candice Cox	In memory of Tom & Louise Cox, Armand & Elaine Bauer, Graham Jordan
Kathy Fox Family, Tom & Georgia Dawson	In memory of Bob, Edith, and Chuck Dawson
Steve & Vicki Dawson Family	In memory of Jacob Dawson
Mark and Ruth DeRuyter	In honor of daughters: Laura & Will Porter, Rebecca & Scott Nasson
Patricia, David, Jane Filipi	In memory of Glenn Filipi, John & Anita Borgman, Dan & Gerda Filipi
Nancy Froelich	In memory of Douglas Froelich
Bruce & Lorraine Furness	In honor of our children & grandchildren; In memory of Ross & Peg Robson, Sandy Mathew, Joel & Vivian Broberg, Loran Guenther, Oscar & Jean Lindgren, Edith Dawson, Our parents
Linda Morse Haak & Stephanie Morse Damman	In memory of Stephen I Morse; In honor of Monna Rae Morse
Tim, Linda, and Taaren Haak, Leah & Andrew Beck	In memory of Stephen I Morse, Elmer & Phyllis Haak; In honor of Monna Rae Morse
David & Sally Harmon Family	In memory of Paul Gulbrandson, Do & Tod Gunkelman
Mary & George Haugo	In memory of Bud & Blanche Davenport; In honor of Ward & Irene Davenport
Bobbie Holman	In memory of Mark Holman, Robert Aspelund, Jim Rosendahl, Oliver & Inez Holman
Ted & Barb Kessel	In honor of our family
Richard & Vicki Laraway	In memory of Harry & Jeane Mason, Harold Laraway
Donald Larew	In memory of Andrew & Mildred M. Larew, Rev. P. Hewison Pollock
Autumn Larson	To the glory of God
Gwen Martin	In memory of Phil Martin
Prakash & Jane Mathew	In memory of Sandy Mathew, Ross & Peg Robson
Bruce & AnneMarie Turk Maylath	In memory of Clyde & Carroll Maylath, Frank & Jayne Turk

Jill Post	In memory of Milton Severson and Dr. & Mrs. Richard Post; In honor of Ardis Severson
Georgia Resell & Family	In memory of John & Jennifer Resell; In honor of Adolph & Mae Blomquist, John & Elizabeth Resell
David & Candy Shultz	In memory of Ila & Harvey Coon, Jean & Gerry Shultz
Joseph & Leanne Stanley	In memory of our parents, brothers, and sister
Paula, Kathleen, & Kevin Thomas	In memory of Mack Thomas, Robert & Maxine Yates
Debbie & Bob Tight	In memory of Abbie & Bob Peterson, Tom Tight, Marjorie & Fred Tight
Jerri, Bob, Jodi, and Ginny Twete	In memory of Dave Twete
Tom & Sue Van Osdel	In memory of our parents
Connie & Mark Weed	In memory of Ryan & Michael Weed
Jeff & Amy Wilkens	To the glory of God; In memory of our parents & grandparents
Andrew & McKenzie Zuther	In honor of Grandma & Grandpa Joe

*A poinsettia was painted live during our Hanging of the Greens service on the first Sunday of Advent.
Proceeds from this sale will go to the Vets Giving Tree. You can bid online below.*





Have you noticed the 4 trees in the Gathering Space?

It's not too late to make a contribution to the Festival of Trees. The trees will be up until January 15th! Your items may be placed by the trees, and financial contributions may be mailed to the church, handed to a member of the Mission Committee or submitted online by using the church's website. Thank you for your continued support of mission!

Men's Bible Study: Men's Bible study convenes for the new year on January 10th at 6:45 a.m., in the Jennie Roberts Room. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, October through May. Egg bake, pastries, and coffee will be served this winter. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this year examines the Book of Job. A copy of the study guide can be obtained at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/job.pdf>, or you can request a copy from Bruce Maylath via email at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

PW Bible Study Leaders: On Jan. 11 Pastor Mary Holtey will present the Bible Study on Lesson 5 in the office conference room at 2:00pm.

Emergency Relief Fund: The Board of Deacons' Emergency Relief Fund is used to help members and friends of the church in emergency situations, including rent, utilities, car repairs, food, and medical expenses. Again this year, all loose offering on Christmas Eve, not otherwise dedicated, will be given to this Fund. Or, you may choose to give online through the giving portal found on the church website.



Covenant Of Prayer: Don Brummond, son of Joyce Brummond, with serious medical concerns; Jennifer; those without shelter who have died this past year; our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya; and the people of Ukraine.

Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer: Lt. Col. Dan Sundberg has returned from Iraq! If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include his/her name.

Serving at Micah's Mission continues: Thank you to those who have been preparing and serving meals at Micah's Mission (part of Churches United for the Homeless). Our commitment continues every second Thursday of the month. A sign up sheet is on the Volunteer Opportunities Board if you're wishing to help for January 12 and February 9. We need 4 meal preparers from 3-5pm and 4 servers from 5-7pm. Consider forming a team, or being part of a team. See Pastor Mary if this is for you! Come and be a part of this longstanding partnership.

2022 Year End Giving: Please have all contributions intended for the 2022 giving year turned in to the church office by Tuesday, January 3rd. The church office will be open from 9:00AM through 3:00PM 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 2023 giving record. If you would like to know the balance of your 2022 pledge, email Jan Lundgren at jlundgren@firstpresfargo.org.

Christmas Joy Offering: Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us – past, present and future – who have pointed us to God! This offering helps support retired church workers and families who are now in financial crisis, and emerging church leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color to bring their gifts of service to the world. Envelopes may be found in the West entryway, the Narthex and pew racks, or simply write "Christmas Joy" on the memo of your check. Or, you may choose to give online through the giving portal found on the church website.

Welcome Dordt University Choir, Jan 8: First Presbyterian Church has been blessed to have Dordt Professor, **Ryan Smit**, worshiping and performing with us for the past few months as he receives his Doctorate in Choral Conducting from NDSU. The Dordt University choir will join us in worship on Sunday, January 8. They tour with their own organist, Isabel Munson, who will play the organ for our service in addition to accompanying the choir. Please give the choir a warm welcome and an enthusiastic congregation to listen to them sing. They will be having a concert at 7:30pm on Saturday, January 7, at Peace Lutheran Church. The concert is free, with a freewill offering.

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 8:45** 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

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood-*Head of Staff, Pastor*
Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Associate Pastor*
Rev. Daniel Billings-*Parish Associate*
Sally Harmon-*Music Coordinator & Organist*
Bryan Poyzer-*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



Snowman building in the courtyard, Hot Chocolate in the foyer

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

Saturday, December 24

7:00 Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25

10:30 Christmas Day Worship (L)

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, December 26

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 27

No Church Events

Wednesday, December 28

No Church Events

Thursday, December 29

No Church Events

Friday, December 30

No Church Events

Saturday, December 31

No Church Events

Sunday, January 1, 2023

10:30 Worship, Baptism, & Communion (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

December 18 Attendance: 550

447 in person;

103 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$13,264.07



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

Carols by Candlelight Offering: Thank you to all who gave so generously at the Carols by Candlelight service. The offering received was \$1002.22, which will be sent to the Emergency Food Pantry.

Arts & Crafts Donations needed!

Our upcoming "Crafternoon" needs your help to be a success! We are looking for gently-used or leftover craft supplies.

Please contact Carrie Lawrence if you would like to donate!
(701) 361-6162 or
carrieL@outlook.com

