



*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.*

*Please join us outside for fellowship 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 first and the last, give us strength of mind, that we might walk the path of obedience and discipleship without wasting our time thinking about who is more important. Instead, guide our thoughts and our emotions that we may be like children, totally dependent on you, welcoming all with hospitality and love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

### **PRELUDE**

*All Are Welcome*  
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Marshall

### **WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Remembering God's abundant welcome for us in creation,  
**Friend or stranger, enter and welcome.**  
**Let us worship God!**

#### **\*HYMN 714: *God of the Fertile Fields***

**God of the fertile fields,  
shaper of earth that yields  
our daily bread:  
forth from your bounteous hand  
come gifts your love has planned,  
that all in every land  
be clothed and fed.**

**We would be stewards true,  
holding in trust from you  
all that you give;  
help us in love to share,  
teach us like you to care  
for people everywhere,  
that all may live.**

**As grows the hidden seed  
to fruit that serves our need,  
so your reign grows.**

**Let all our toil be used,  
no gift of yours abused,  
no humble task refused  
your love bestows.**

**God of the countryside,  
dear to the Christ who died  
to make us one:  
we pledge our lives anew  
in faithful love to you.  
Guide all we say and do.  
Your will be done.**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

We have an advocate on high: Jesus Christ,  
who stooped down to save us from our sin  
but rose in honor and glory to reign forever.  
Therefore, let us seek God's grace.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, you created us to live in relationship with you, to love and serve one another,  
and to care for all your creatures. Yet, in the hardness of our hearts, we dismiss your  
commandments and seek to go our separate ways. Lord, have mercy on us. Redeem, restore,  
and re-create us, for the sake of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

What are we that God is mindful of us?  
Who are we that God should care for us?  
Yet God now calls us beloved children;  
Jesus now claims us as sisters and brothers.  
This is the good news of God's grace:  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*RESPONSE: *God Welcomes All***

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (half).

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Simple Gifts*  
Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director  
Wanda Wavra & Sally Harmon, piano duet

arr. Larson

**CHILDREN'S TIME: Penny Andrist**

# The Word

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** reader, Claudia Hansen

Your Word is our wisdom;  
it gives us insight, strength, and courage.  
Open our hearts and our minds on this day,  
that we might receive what you want to give.  
Speak, Lord! Your people listen! **Amen.**

**FIRST READING:** Psalm 1

Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.  
They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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

**SECOND READING:** James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

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

**SERMON:** The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

**\*HYMN 757: *Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples***

**Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.**

**God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud;  
we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.**

**Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.**

**For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.**

**May we in service to our God  
act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be  
disciples of the Lord.**

**AFFIRMATION 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 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.**

**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

**OFFERTORY**      *Meditation and Allegro on "All Are Welcome"*

arr. Lenz

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### Bearing the Word into the World

**\*HYMN 301:** *Let Us Build a House*

**Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain:

**all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: (Refrain)**

**Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine, and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: (Refrain)**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: (Refrain)**

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured,  
taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,**

**prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: (Refrain)**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Maestoso and Capriccio on "All Are Welcome"*

arr. Lenz



September 19, 2021

**Covenant Of Prayer:** Mary Bohnenblust; those who are experiencing homelessness in our community; and our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya.

**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.

**Contribution Statements:** Contribution Statements through August 31 have been emailed out. Please look them over carefully. It is much easier (and less stressful) to make any corrections to your offerings now rather than at year end. If you do not see your statement in your inbox, please search your spam box or use your search box to search for "First Presbyterian Church". Contact Jan or Monica in the office with any questions.

**Pilgrimage Class Cancelled:** The Pilgrimage Class, *When Tears Sing*, set for September 23 & 30 has been cancelled. A rescheduled date will be announced once known.

**PW News:** PW Circles will meet on Tuesday, September 21, at 2:00pm, for Lesson 1 of our Bible Study for 2021-22, *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*. Pastor Mary Holtey will lead us through this lesson.

**Confirmation:** Confirmation will meet on Sundays from 12:00-1:30pm. Our first gathering is TODAY, with parents joining us, in the Social Hall. If you are, or have a student in 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above who would like to participate in confirmation, please contact Kayla Bones at kbones@firstpresfargo.org.

**Peace & Global Witness:** A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. **This offering will be received on World Communion Sunday, October 3.**

**Hosted Concert:** The FM Area Music Club will meet **Monday, September 20 in our Church Sanctuary at 1:00 pm.** Masks and social distancing will be observed. The Sue Simpson Piano Scholarship winner from this past spring, Carter Cassola, will present a short program. A "treat to go" will be served at the end of the program. All are welcome to attend.

**Help Needed:** Wednesday evenings at First Pres. 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 5:15-7:15 pm** to help shepherd our young members in and out. As the weather gets colder, it is important to keep children indoors until their parents or other adult arrives for them. We don't want anyone stuck outside. It is an easy two hours to sit and visit with other church members, check your email on your phone, etc. Can you help? **If we cannot find some volunteers, we will need to hire someone for this responsibility.** Questions? Contact any staff member.

**Sing with the Choir:** This is an invitation to sing with the choir as we prepare music for the upcoming season. Perhaps you've thought about singing with the choir but haven't wanted to commit for the full program year. Please know that all singers are welcome, whether for a short or long period of time. **Choir rehearsals are held in the choir room on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.** Please join us!

**The Homeless and Hungry** event is back after an extended hiatus. According to the 2018 Wilder Study on homelessness in Fargo-Moorhead, about 600 people are estimated to be homeless in our area. We will be learning about homelessness and hunger in our community, serving, fasting, and sleeping outside October 16 & 17. All youth in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate! The cost is \$50 per student or \$75 per family. **Non-students can help by donating large cardboard boxes, chaperoning during a day/night shift, serving breakfast to our students in the morning, or donating to our September/October Holy Buckets campaign.** If you would like to participate in any way or have any questions, please contact Kayla Bones at kbones@firstpresfargo.org.

**Holy Buckets:** For the months of September and October, Holy Buckets will support our youth's participation in the Homeless and Hungry Project. We will collect the following: laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shaving cream, new/gently used winter wear, new/gently used shoes/boots, children's books. Some of the winter wear will also be shared with the children of Bdecan Presbyterian Church. You may place your donations in the green buckets in the foyer.

**A Peek @ Next Week:** We will be enjoying music by the Sanctuary Choir, viewing a video from the Stewardship video series, and baptizing a baby!

**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)

### 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*

Monica Gelinske-*Administrative Assistant*

Penny Andrist-*Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Kayla Bones-*Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinator*

Rick Fiebiger-*Facilities Manager*

Drew Brovold-*Custodian*

**All staff emails are:**

**(first initial and last name of person)@firstpresfargo.org**

### FPC Officers

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

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

**Treasurer:** Sherri Stern



### Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

### For Your Information

September 12 Worship Attendance:

177 in person, 11 Livestreamed

Contributions Received: \$7171.50

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

### **Sunday, September 19**

11:30 Outdoor Fellowship / ZOOM Coffee Hour (Z)

12:00 Confirmation (parents included)

### **Monday, September 20**

1:00 Music Club Program

3:30 Compass #3

6:30 Session (H)

### **Tuesday, September 21**

8:30 Bulletin Articles Due

1:00 Staff Mtg.

2:00 PW Circles (Z)

### **Wednesday, September 22**

5:30 Genesis Ringers / St. Andrew's Brass

6:15 Youth Choirs

6:30 Compass #4

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

### **Thursday, September 23**

8:30 Messenger Articles Due

1:30 Compass #2

**Friday, September 24** No Church Events

**Saturday, September 25** No Church Events

### **Sunday, September 26** Baptism

9:15 Sunday School for ALL

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Outdoor Fellowship / ZOOM Coffee Hour (Z)

## **FPC Financial Summary**

### **August 2021 - General Fund Only**

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Increase/Decrease</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>	\$542,493	\$498,407	\$44,086	\$779,600
<b>Expense</b>	490,283	528,542	-\$38,259	798,774
<b>Net/Shortfall</b>	\$52,210	-\$30,135	\$5,827	-\$19,174
<b>Net Ins. Proceeds/Repairs</b>	0			
<b>Grand Total</b>	\$52,210			