



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.*

September 25: 16th Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in Christ

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, help us to measure our time, in faithful generosity, that your will be done, your kingdom come, for life everlasting, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

Toccata on "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!"
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Travis

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

When they call to me, I will answer them, says the Lord.

I will be with them in trouble,

I will rescue and honor them.

With thanksgiving and praise, let us worship God!

***HYMN 4**

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.

All on earth your scepter claim; all in heaven above adore you.

Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

Hark! The glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;

cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising,

fill the heavens with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

All apostles join the strain as your sacred name they hallow;

prophets swell the glad refrain, and the blessed martyrs follow,

and from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.

Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit: three we name you,

while in essence only one; undivided God we claim you,

and adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

We tend to associate worship with the more upbeat moments of the gathering—singing and preaching, yet it is the confession that honors the Lord. God looks favorably upon those who approach with a contrite spirit, when we say we're truly sorry and repent.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, you are nearby and far off, in our every moment and in the highest heaven. Forgive us when we would rather not remember you in the everyday moments of our lives; when choosing you would mean putting our neighbors' needs first; when following you would challenge our comfortable assumptions; when listening to you would change the life we have grown to love. Forgive us, God of mercy, and love us into your reign of true peace.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

God Emmanuel, means God with us. The good news is that we do not worship a God who is far off. We worship a God who came to us. Jesus is here with us today, in this very room, helping us to draw closer to God. Friends, believe in the Good News of the Gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*RESPONSE 155

Raise a Song of Gladness

Musical notation for the hymn "Raise a Song of Gladness". The score is written on three staves in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/2. The lyrics are: "Raise a song of glad-ness, peo-ples of the earth. Christ has come, bring-ing peace, joy to ev-ery heart. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, joy to ev-ery heart! Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, joy to ev-ery heart!"

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

GIFT OF MUSIC

For This Joy

LaBarr

Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director; Catherine Tesch, clarinet

Praise for the sun, who by day gives us warmth and enlightens;
Praise for the moon, who the darkest night cheerfully brightens;
Each glitt'ring star shining from ages afar, Driving away all that frightens.
Praise for the sky under heaven that widely contains us;
Our fertile earth, and her harvest that gently sustains us;
Birds on the wing, lifting their voices to sing, Free us from all that restrains us.
Our tender hearts which so wondrously in chambers deeping,
Can cherish the joys of new love and, at death's call, the weeping.
Sorrow and pain turn to rejoicing again; love now in memory keeping.
Praise for this joy in our hearts as we sing of creation!

Wondrous are all things from firmament down to foundation!
Joyful our praise as all our voices we raise, Singing in glad celebration!

Charles Anthony Silvestri (b.1965)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Andrist

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ally Trumbo, Reader

God of the Prophets, by the power of the Holy Spirit speak your Word to us, and seal it within us, that we may heed your call. Amen.

FIRST READING

Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.'

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;
he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

You will not fear the terror of the night,
or the arrow that flies by day,
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.
With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

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

SECOND READING

Luke 16:19-31,
Whirl Story Bible pg. 326

'There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you

are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.””

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

SERMON

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

***HYMN 320**

The Church of Christ in Every Age

The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.

Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

For Christ alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord:
to care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's liberating word.

***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

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.



Per Capita: If you have not yet paid Per Capita for 2022, it's not too late! We will be accepting payments through the end of the year. Your contribution will be reflected on your giving record and will be greatly appreciated to help offset the Per Capita Apportionment payment sent to the Presbytery. 2022 rate = \$48.00 per confirmed member.

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 at the Volunteer Opportunities Board if you're wishing to help on October 13. 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.

Presbyterian Women: Circles will meet on Oct. 11. Naomi/Ruth will meet in the Social Hall at 9:30am. The Rachel Circle will meet at 1 PM in the Social Hall. The Leah met last Saturday morning.

Pilgrimage: Richard Rohr "Alternative Orthodoxy" class open to all: How do contemplation, mysticism, compassion, and justice inform Christianity? With Rohr's videos facilitated by spiritual director Maren Ortmeier, this 5-session course provides new insight into age-old theology.

When: Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 P.M., It started Sept. 13 and goes through Oct. 11

Where: Meeting rooms #2&3 and Zoom.

Purchase of Rohr's book is highly recommended.

Contact: Mike Wavra, wavamw@aol.com or 701-566-1483.

Committee members needed: The Management & Finance Committee is looking for a few new members. The Committee oversees the finances of the church and develops the yearly operating budget in conjunction with committees. Typically meets every other month during the lunch hour via Zoom. If you have an interest in finance or accounting, please contact Pastor Sarah at sbigwood@firstpresfargo.org.

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: Lt. Col. Dan Sundberg will return from Iraq in December. If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include his/her name.

The Emergency Food Pantry We are once again going to commit to serving the Pantry through our volunteering mission. This very worthwhile mission service had a break during the pandemic but now they are ready for us to assist them again. We will be volunteering the mornings of the week Monday, October 3rd through Thursday, October 6th from 9:30 a.m. to noon. There are many different jobs to do. There will be signup sheets at today's and Oct 3rd services. You may also sign up by calling Jan Harrison at 701-371-1855 or 701-293-6130 or for more information.

Baptism Handkerchiefs: The Worship Committee is looking for people who have the skill or equipment to embroider names and baptism dates onto handkerchiefs. We plan to give these as gifts to each child when they are baptized. If you have the ability to help us with this request, please contact Kim Carter or Pastor Sarah.

School Supply Collection for Mpangua: From October 3-17, a team from the Presbytery of the Northern Plains is going to Chogoria, Kenya to celebrate our partners' Centennial. While we are there, we will visit Mpangua Primary School, which we worked to build as a partnership. Due to national curriculum changes, Mpangua is in need of different school supplies such as crayons, markers, water colors, and quality balls for football, netball, volleyball, and basketball as well as nets for basketball and netball. You can also give a cash donation as there are items such walls maps, paints, a printer, scanner, and photo copier which will be purchased in country. Please bring your items to the church or donate by **Sunday, October 2**. Please denote Mpangua School Supplies on any monetary donation.

Peace & Global Witness Offering Received Oct. 2

As we work to share Christ's peace with one another, let's share that peace with those beyond our doors, beyond our communities and beyond our borders. 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. 25% stays within our congregation, 25% is given to mid-council ministries and 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. We will receive this offering on World Communion Sunday, October 2nd. *For you shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace. Isaiah 55:12*

We Have New Neighbors! In the former Dawson Insurance Company building across the church parking lot is a new agency that helps unsheltered veterans. The mission committee thought a fall Holy Buckets drive would be a warm way of welcoming the Veterans Center into the neighborhood. We will be collecting items for the Veterans that are **brand new** and still have the tags on. They are in need of:

winter coats (M-3XL), cold weather hats/caps (no homemade ones at this time), insulated gloves (L or XL), insulated coveralls/bibs (L or XL), sweatpants (S-3XL), Tee-shirts (S-3XL), men's underwear (S-2XL)

XL and XXL are the most needed sizes. Consider asking a First Pres Fargo neighbor to share the cost of a coat (or any other neighbor you might have). Cash donations will also be accepted and the mission committee can do the shopping. Stay tuned for a new Giving Tree this Christmas for our new neighbors.

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, Lisa Edison-Smith, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Dick Henderson, Ryan Johnston, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Scott Swanholm, Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens. **Deacons:** Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Donna Rummens, Candy Shultz, 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*

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**

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

Sunday, September 25

11:30 Coffee & Fellowship

11:45 Nominating Committee Meeting

12:00 Confirmation

2:00 Pastor Sarah Bigwood's Installation

Monday, Sept. 26

1:00 Bulletin Insert Articles Due

5:00 Stewardship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 27

10:30 Staff Meeting

6:30 "Alternate Orthodoxy" Pilgrimage (H)

Wednesday, Sept. 28

1:00 Library Committee Meeting

5:30 Genesis Ringers

5:30 St. Andrews Brass

6:15 Children / Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, Sept. 29

5:00 Nurturing Parenting Meal & Classes

Friday, Sept. 30

No Church Events

Saturday, October 1

No Church Events

Sunday, Oct. 2

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship & Communion (L)

11:30 Fellowship

12:00 Confirmation

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

For Your Information

September 18 Attendance: 162

121 in person;

41 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$7,131.75



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org