



Peace to the Generations

DECEMBER 04, 2022 | SECOND SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FARGO, ND

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.*

We Gather in Christ

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

arr. Henderson

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

arr. Henderson

St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

OPENING WORDS

Love Comes Running

Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed,

A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Ryan, Jen, Ethan & Leif Johnston and
Jean Pladson (Jen's mother)

*CAROL 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.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Fear can be a good thing. It can help us be attentive while driving down the highway. It can alert us to possible accidents. It can motivate us to do our best. However, fear can also be harmful. For so many of us, fear of the other, fear of failure, or fear of the unknown has led us to make sinful choices in our lives—choices such as building walls or tearing others down. Today, in confession, we ask for mercy and pray for guidance. As we confess, we come before an entirely merciful and loving God who says to us, “Do not be afraid.” Let us pray:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, “Do not be afraid” on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to recenter us in love. With hope we pray, amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith, even when we forget God's words, God does not forget us. Even when we lose our way, God does not lose us. Even when we fall short or make mistakes, God forgives and holds onto us. We are known, forgiven, and loved. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***RESPONSE 88**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 4)

O come, thou Root of Jesse, free - thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save - and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eve Niyomuchamanza, Reader

Holy God, whether it's through angels or music, friendships or sermons, study or nature—when you speak, we long to hear it. In a world as chaotic and broken as ours, we could use your words of hope and healing. With gratitude we pray, amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Whirl Story Bible pg. 178

Luke 1:26-38

SECOND READING

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

SERMON

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

***CAROL 129**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.
This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

Responding to the Word



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

***DID YOU KNOW?** If you are 72 or over you generally must withdraw an amount from your retirement accounts every year (the required minimum distribution). This amount can be paid directly to a charity (like the church). Amounts distributed this way count towards the minimum distribution and are excluded from your taxable income. Contact the church for more details.*

OFFERTORY

Advent Canticle

arr. Shepperd

Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director; Ryan Smit, soloist;
Sally Harmon, organ; Kirstin Carlson, flute; Savannah Joldersma, oboe

***RESPONSE 95**

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre- pare the way of the Lord, and
all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Sealing of the Word

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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



Festival of Trees: In the Gathering Space, three trees will be familiar and the Vets Tree is new this year! We continue to collect greeting cards for vets to send to family and friends, and winter clothing (copies of the list are at the Tree). We're adding food bags for our homeless vets. We have bags to fill and lists of needed items. You may choose to shop to fill a complete bag, or buy several of the same items and we'll put together the complete bags. In addition we're collecting non-perishable food items and diapers for the Emergency Food Pantry; hats, mittens, scarves, gloves and warm socks for local shelters; financial contributions for hunger relief in Kenya. Members of the Mission Committee are in the Gathering Space to help you.

Men's Bible Study: The ManUp Bible study for men continues on Tuesday, Dec. 13th, 6:45 -7:45 a.m., in the Jennie Roberts Room. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this month takes up the 3rd lesson in the study guide to 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 by e-mailing him at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be served. New participants may join at any time.

PW Christmas Tea: PW is hosting a Christmas Tea on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 1:00 pm. We will be featuring the North High Jazz Carolers directed by Eric Saari. The concert will be held in the Sanctuary and everyone is welcome and encouraged to invite friends and neighbors. Coffee, tea and cookies will be served in the Jennie Roberts room following the concert. Don't miss this amazing opportunity as a wonderful way to begin the Christmas season.

Bible Study Leaders: On Dec. 7 Pastor Mary Holtey will present the Bible Study on Lesson 4 in the office conference room at 2:00pm.

PW Circles: Circles will be meeting on Tuesday, December 13 for Lesson 4. Naomi/Ruth will meet at 9:30am; Rachel Circle will meet at 1pm, both in the Jennie Roberts Room. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Jan Kenien at 701-280-2391.

Covenant Of Prayer: Jennifer; Hannah; David; 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.

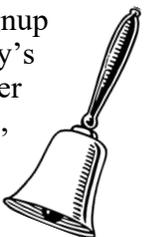
Banner for Advent: The figure of the shepherd carries mixed symbolism for the community of faith. On the one hand, the shepherd personifies those whose lives are lived on the fringes of human community. Shepherds were not in the mainstream of society. They lived isolated lives, keeping company only with 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.

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.

Congregational Meeting: The Session of First Presbyterian Fargo has called a Congregational meeting for Dec. 11 following worship for the purpose of electing officers and approving the Terms of Call for our pastors.

Carols by Candlelight: This year's theme is *O Come, Let Us Adore Him* and will feature our church's vocal and instrumental ensembles plus congregational carol-singing and candle lighting in a celebration of word and seasonal music. Christmas treats will be served after the service. This service will also be livestreamed.

Red Kettle Campaign – Bell Ringing: Signup sheets to ring the bell for the Salvation Army's feeding programs will be in the foyer after worship today. All locations are indoors, starting the week of Thanksgiving and through the holiday season. Contact Ginger Deitz with questions, deitzv@gmail.com.



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, 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*
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**

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 27 Attendance
190 in person;
Livestream unavailable
Contributions received: \$31,219.00

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

Sunday, December 4

11:30 Fellowship
4:00 FMAYS Setup
5:30 Confirmation
7:00 FMAYS Concert

Monday, December 5

5:30 Personnel Committee Meeting
5:30 Building & Grounds Meeting

Tuesday, December 6

12:15 S&E Committee Meeting
1:00 PW Christmas Tea & Carolers
5:30 Worship Committee Meeting (H)
5:30 Mission Committee Meeting

Wednesday, December 7

2:00 PW Bible Study Leaders Meeting
5:30 Genesis Ringers
5:30 St. Andrews Brass
5:30 Ukulele Rehearsal
6:15 Children / Youth Choirs
6:30 Westminster Ringers
7:00 Youth Group
7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 8

3:00 Prepare Meals at Micah's Mission
5:00 Serve Meals at Micah's Mission

Friday, December 9

No Church Events

Saturday, December 10

1:00 Lefse Lessons — Day 1

Sunday, December 11

9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship (L)
11:30 Congregational Meeting
11:30 Fellowship
11:30 Lefse Lessons — Day 2
5:30 Confirmation



Church Information

Office Hours:
M-TH, 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Phone: 701-293-6311
www.firstpresfargo.org