



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

Holy One, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near. Keep us faithful in love and watchful in prayer, so that we may stand with confidence and joy at the coming of Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Sally Harmon, organ

arr. Manz

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH: The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We no longer have to wait and yearn for God, for God has come.

God is near, ever near.

We no longer have to wait and long to hear from God, for God has spoken.

God is speaking.

We no longer have to wait and imagine the day of our salvation, for the Savior has come to bring hope to the weary.

God is here.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN 82:** *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

In Jesus Christ, our Lord, the grace of God has appeared, bringing light to us all. With confidence, let us confess our sin.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Great and 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. We choose to walk in darkness, unwilling to see the evil your light exposes. Cleanse us and free us; break the yoke we choose to carry through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear and trust the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

GIFT OF MUSIC

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
Sanctuary Choir: Bryan Poyzer, director;
Mike Wavra, trumpet

arr. Hayes

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

The Word

Advent: The Light Shines in the Darkness

CHILDREN'S TIME, LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

PRAYER: Creator God, on this first Sunday in Advent you call us to waken and watch for your coming again. May we wait for Christ's coming with hope in our hearts, hope that this Christmas your kingdom will come more fully in our lives. Amen.

***RESPONSE:** *Come, Come Emmanuel*



EVERGREEN TREE

Reading
O Christmas Tree
Josh Argall, soprano saxophone

Jane Roggensack

LIGHTS

John 1:1-14

Brian McClure

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Sally Harmon, organ

RESPONSE: Refrain from *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

***HYMN 749:** *Come, Live in the Light*

**Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

Refrain: **We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.**

**Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more.**

(Refrain)

**Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.**

(Refrain)

POINSETTIA/STAR

People, Look East

Gus & Eli Barrett-Learn

Sally Harmon, organ; Youth

HOLLY

The Holly and the Ivy

Prakash Mathew

Jill Post, clarinet

BELLS

Carol of the Bells

Kit O'Neill

Josh Argall, alto saxophone; Handbells

NATIVITY SCENE

Luke 2:4-7

Fred Hudson

Away in a Manger

ANGELS

Luke 2:8-14

Shane Erstad

Angel-Filled Advent, by Ann Weems

Claudia Hansen

Wouldn't it be wonderful if Advent came filled with
angels and alleluias?

Wouldn't it be perfect if we were greeted on these
December mornings with a hovering of heavenly hosts
turning their harps and brushing up on their fa-la-las?

Wouldn't it be incredible if their music filled our waking
hours with the promise of peace on earth and if each
Advent night we dreamed of nothing but goodwill?

Wouldn't we be ecstatic if we could take those angels
shopping, or trim the tree or have them hold our hands
and dance through our houses decorating?

And, oh, how glorious it would be to sit in church next to
an angel and sing our hark-the-heralds!

What an Advent that would be!

What Christmas spirit we could have!

An angel-filled Advent has so many possibilities!

But in lieu of that, perhaps we can give thanks for the good earthly joys we have been given and for the earthly “angels” that we know who do such a good job of filling our Advent with alleluias!

In order of appearance: Tori Hughes; Lisa Edison-Smith; Karen Rivers; Jeff Olson; Liliana Mwangura; Carter Argall, Cora Argall, Adam Erstad, Eli Peterson, Jude Torpey; Hazel Schmidt, Ryan Schmidt, Maggie Schmidt; Jack Lawrence and the Sanctuary Choir. Music by Penny Andrist.

RESPONSE: Refrain from *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Gloria in Excelsis Deo! Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

GIFT

What Can I Give Him

Jennifer, Cece,
and Milo Thorp

Cece Thorp, soloist; Penny Andrist, guitar

***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

***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 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.

OFFERING



A reminder that offering plates are at the west & north doors of the sanctuary to receive your offering and yellow attendance cards, before and after worship.

OFFERTORY

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Virginia Stern & Nancy Norris, piano duo

arr. Raney

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

*HYMN 772: *Live into Hope*

**Live into hope of captives freed, of sight regained, the end of greed.
The oppressed shall be the first to see the year of God's own jubilee.**

**Live into hope! The blind shall see with insight and with clarity,
Removing shades of pride and fear, a vision of our God brought near.**

**Live into hope of liberty, the right to speak, the right to be,
The right to have one's daily bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.**

**Live into hope of captives freed from chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release to faith and hope and joy and peace.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Live Into Hope

arr. Callahan



November 28, 2021

Covenant Of Prayer: Jennifer; Hannah; Bella Garcia; those who are experiencing homelessness in our community; and our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya.

Attention Snow Birds: Please make sure you notify the office of your winter address **along with the start and end date** for using that address. We need all of that info to keep the system (and thus, the communication) in working order. Most items are mailed at special non-profit rates and those items are not forwarded even if you have a forward order at the post office. Your help keeps the lines of communication open and we thank you for helping us with this task.

Unique Boutique: The Unique Boutique is sponsored by the YWCA to provide Christmas gifts to the women and children living at their shelter. A gift of \$25 will purchase gifts for one person. Our goal is to provide gifts for 40 individuals (approximately 10 families). You may purchase a “tag” **this Sunday after worship**, or make your donation through the giving portal on the church’s website, noting “Unique Boutique” in the memo. Our youth will do the shopping, wrapping and delivering!

Fill a Home with Hope! The Sunday School class is collecting basic household items to provide to YWCA families who are transitioning from the shelter to a home of their own. The items needed can be found on the Volunteer Opportunities Board. As you are able and willing, please take a card item and document it on the clipboard for tracking. **Items can be returned to the green Holy Buckets anytime before December 1.**

Calling all Bakers: On Sunday, December 12, the youth will be hosting our annual cookie walk! If you’d like to donate some of your baked goods, we’d gladly accept them! To take COVID precautions, we ask that you prepackage your cookies/goodies in groups of 3-6 items in clear baggies. Please **deliver your cookies to the Jennie Roberts Room by noon on Saturday, December 11.** If you do not have a FOB to West doors, please drop off your items during office hours.

Congregational Meeting Called: After worship on Sunday, December 12, a congregational meeting has been called to review the 2021 financials, to receive the 2022 budget from Session, and to approve any changes to the terms of call for the Rev. Holtey. Summaries will be handed out at the meeting; more detailed budget info can be found in the church office that morning.

Poinsettias: It’s not too early to order your Christmas Poinsettia! You can find order forms online, at the Info Kiosk, and in the December Messenger. Orders and payments should be delivered to the office **no later than noon on December 13.** Please write a separate check for your poinsettia; do not include with your offering.

A Christmas Ring and Sing-along: This FREE concert on **Monday, December 13 at 7:00 pm** is presented by the FM Area Music Club. Several area organists; the women’s choir, The Noteables; and the handbell choir, BELLissimo, are participating in this family-friendly event with narration from Pastor Mary. FPC is well-represented in the membership of these groups!

ManUP: ManUP, a men’s Bible study, kicks off its monthly sessions on **December 14 at 6:45 am via ZOOM.** The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, October-May. 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 Epistle to the Hebrews. A copy of the study guide can be obtained at Hebrews: An Open Door to God | Presbyterian Mission Agency or you can request a copy and ask for a Zoom invitation from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month’s study.

PW News: PW Board meets via ZOOM on Tuesday, **December 14 at 10:00 am.** There is no General Meeting this month. Also via ZOOM, the PW Bible Study, held Tuesday, **December 21 at 2:00 pm,** will focus on Lesson 4, "Ruth and Loyal Love," led by Pastor Holtey. Our November study was enjoyed by 19.

So far this year, our PW YWCA rep has delivered 507 pillows for use by those in need at the Y. Last month, 54 rolls of paper towels and 33 shampoo/conditioners were delivered. For December, we will collect aspirin, Tylenol, ibuprofen, etc. Please place your donations in the YWCA bin in the coat room.

We will also be collecting winter items for men - such as winter hats, hand warmers, winter gloves, long underwear, and water bottles in the New Life Center bin.

New Pilgrimage Class: January’s Pilgrimage class is new and meant for current participants and FPC congregants who may be interested in becoming part of The Pilgrimage ministry. Titled, *Seeking God Together*, the 2-session class will provide small group experience steeped in contemplative Christian tradition. Kit O’Neill will teach the class with current pilgrim guides as small group facilitators. Recommended reading for the class is, *The Pilgrim’s Compass*, by Paul H. Lang, available in the church library. Contact Mike Wavra (wavramw@aol.com) or Judy Rippentrop (jrippentrop@yahoo.com) **by December 15, 2021, to indicate your interest.**

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

A Peek @ Next Week: Communion will be served. We will enjoy music by combined 7-12 and Sanctuary choirs as well as the St. Andrew’s Brass.

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](mailto: @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, 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

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

Sunday, November 28

No Confirmation

Monday, November 29

No Church Events

Tuesday, November 30

8:30 Bulletin Articles Due

Wednesday, December 1

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

6:15 2-6 Choir / 7-12 Choir

6:30 Westminster Ringers / Pilgrimage Guides

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 2

No Church Events

Friday, December 3 *No Church Events*

Saturday, December 4 *No Church Events*

Sunday, December 5 Communion

9:15 Sunday School for All

10:30 Worship Service

12:00 Confirmation

7:00 FMAYS Holiday Concert –FREE

For Your Information

November 21 Worship Attendance:

375 in person, 92 Livestreamed

Contributions Received: \$23,127.00

FPC Financial Summary

October 2021 - General Fund Only

| | <u>YTD Actual</u> | <u>YTD Budget</u> | <u>Increase/ Decrease</u> | <u>Annual Budget</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Income | \$656,865 | \$640,946 | \$15,919 | \$779,600 |
| Expense | 630,277 | 675,637 | -\$45,361 | 798,774 |
| Net/ Shortfall | \$26,588 | -\$34,691 | \$61,279 | -\$19,174 |