



*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**

Unchanging God, you have blessed us forever through the Beloved One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Born again by your word of truth, let us live out your love, doing your word, caring for the weak and vulnerable in their distress, and ever pursuing your reign of justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **PRELUDE**

*All Who Love and Serve Your City*  
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Hustad

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

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

God has lavished us with every perfect gift from above and called us to living intimacy through the beloved one, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Let us worship God!**

#### **\*HYMN 12: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise***

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**

**Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:  
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.  
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.  
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.  
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

## **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins  
to our loving God who calls us close  
through our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving, righteous God, our hearts are defiled with the wickedness you hate. You have called us to yourself, but we have gone away. Forgetting your living Word, we cling to dead traditions. Deceiving ourselves, we abandon your commandments. Hypocrites, we honor you with our lips while our hearts are far from you. Cleanse our hearts from evil intentions; cleanse our tongues from evil words so that our worship may be pure and undefiled, and we may live with you in love for others. Amen.**

## **\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Our generous God has given us the perfect gift of forgiveness,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who has liberated us from dead tradition  
and made us new by the living Word,  
filling our hearts with God's love.

## **\*RESPONSE: *Gloria Patri***

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

## **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*  
Lauren Bontje, violin; Wanda Wavra, piano

Runyan/  
arr. DeRousse

## **The Word**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** reader, Brian McClure  
Father of lights, there is no variation or shadow due to change in you.  
Let your Spirit illumine our hearts through your holy Word,  
turning us from the emptiness of our human traditions  
to the fullness of life in the Beloved One, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: Psalm 15**

A Psalm of David.

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,  
and speak the truth from their heart;  
who do not slander with their tongue,  
and do no evil to their friends,  
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;  
in whose eyes the wicked are despised,  
but who honor those who fear the Lord;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest,  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

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

**SECOND READING:** Mark 7: 1-8; 14-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?’ He said to them, ‘Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

“This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.”

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’

When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, ‘Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?’ (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, ‘It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’

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

**SERMON:** The Rev. Dr. Jane Holtzclaw

**\*HYMN 351:** *All Who Love and Serve Your City*

**All who love and serve your city,  
all who bear its daily stress,  
all who cry for peace and justice,  
all who curse and all who bless:**

**In your day of wealth and plenty,  
wasted work and wasted play,  
call to mind the word of Jesus,  
"You must work while it is day."**

**For all days are days of judgment,  
and the Lord is waiting still,  
drawing near a world that spurns him,  
offering peace from Calvary's hill.**

Risen Lord, shall yet the city  
be the city of despair?  
Come today, our judge, our glory.  
Be its name "The Lord is there!"

**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**

*Pacem*

Dengler

Lauren Bontje, violin; Wanda Wavra, piano

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## Bearing the Word into the World

**\*HYMN 697:** *Take My Life*

Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee,  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee,  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my sliver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
every power as thou shalt choose,  
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne,  
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee,  
ever, only, all for thee.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

arr. Behnke