



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

*preach, teach, heal, & serve*

*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.*

**April 28, 2024**

## **We Gather in Christ**

### **PRELUDE**

*Variations on "We Know that Christ is Raised"* arr. Austin Lovelace  
Sally Harmon, organist

### **WELCOME**

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded, and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

### **✦ CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

We gather to praise and worship God, the one who created us for love.

**We gather to worship the true vine, the one in whose love we abide.**

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

**Let us worship God!**

### **✦ HYMN 401**

*Here in This Place (verses 1, 2 and 4)*

Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;  
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.  
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;  
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.  
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.  
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;  
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away:  
here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.  
Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;  
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

✧ **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

O Christ, you are the true vine, and you have made us your branches. In your grace, we find strength, and in your love, we are set free.

**Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who have been freed, when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down.**

Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who are your branches, when we forget that we are rooted in you, and bound to one another by your spirit.

**Forgive us, O Christ, our one true vine, and teach us to abide in you. Amen.**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks for the new life you raise up in us through the mystery of our baptism—the sorrow of the heavy cross, the surprise of the empty tomb, the love that death could not destroy.

**By the power of your Holy Spirit, poured out upon us in baptism, fill us with the joy of resurrection, so that we may be a living sign of your new heaven and new earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Hear these assurances from scripture, "I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

✧ **RESPONSE 581**

*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**

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

Howard Helvey

Sanctuary Choir; Shawn Neisen, director; Sally Harmon, piano

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Penny Andrist

**The Word**

**SCRIPTURE**

*1 John 4:7-12, pp. 1112*

Tom Dawson, reader

*John 15:1-8, pp. 983*

*Whirl Story Bible, pg. 510 & 386*

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

**SERMON**

*True Vine*

The Rev. Sarah M Bigwood

✧ **HYMN 703**

*Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me*

Jesus, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;  
O knit my thankful heart to thee, and reign without a rival there!  
Thine wholly, thine alone, I'd live; myself to thee entirely give.

O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone;  
O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown!  
All coldness from my heart remove; may every act, word, thought be love.

O Love, how gracious is thy way! All fear before thy presence flies;  
care, anguish, sorrow melt away where'er thy healing beams arise.

O Jesus, nothing may I see, nothing desire, or seek, but thee.

✦ **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.**

**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 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**



**MOMENT FOR MISSION – EFP Birthday Bags**

Ginger Deitz

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

**OFFERTORY** *Medley of Favorite Hymns of FPC Staff Members*

Sally Harmon

Sally Harmon, piano

✦ **RESPONSE 609**

*Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

✦ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Bearing the Word into the World**

✦ **HYMN 485**

*We Know that Christ is Raised*

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.

Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold,

and our despair he turned to blazing joy. Alleluia!

We share by water in this saving death.  
Reborn we share with him an Easter life  
as living members of a living Christ. Alleluia!

The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.  
The Spirit's power shakes the church of God.  
Baptized we live with God the Three in One. Alleluia!

A new creation comes to life and grows  
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.  
The universe, restored and whole, will sing: Alleluia!

✦ **BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*We Know that Christ is Raised*  
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Robert Hobby

*Thank you to Katie Bigwood, Tom Bigwood, and Tom Dawson for assisting us in worship and to our Welcome Team: Jody Hudson, Candy Shultz, Gracia Fulwiler, and Tracy Barrett and family, for taking such good care of us this morning.*

*A special thank you to our musicians: Sally Harmon and the Sanctuary Choir under the direction of Shawn Neisen.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF FARGO



# Sunday Worship

April 28, 2024

**PW August Gathering:** The PW is sponsoring two scholarships to the 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in St. Louis, Missouri from August 8-11. Please contact Judy Rippentrop at 701-730-1836 or [jirippentrop@yahoo.com](mailto:jirippentrop@yahoo.com) by May 1st if you are interested in more information about attending.



Thank you  
volunteers!  
Join us for  
supper!

WE WILL BE SERVING A  
SPECIAL MEAL FOR  
OUR VOLUNTEERS  
FROM THE MOBILE  
CAFE  
4:30PM-6PM  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
650 2ND AVE N

Everyone from First Presbyterian Church is invited to this meal from Heart-n-Soul on May 2nd as a thank you for welcoming folks and sharing our beautiful church!

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE  
PW Luncheon

TUESDAY  
MAY 7, 2024

12pm in the  
Jennie Roberts Room

Featuring the Noteables  
directed by Jill Post

Suggested donation: \$5

**Graduation Sunday:** Join us on Sunday, May 19 to celebrate our 2024 High School Graduates. They are: Eli Barrett-Learn, Gus Barrett-Learn, Katie Bigwood, Zoe Booth, Jonah DeJong, Mya Follingstad, Caleb Gadberry, Jack Gadberry, Elijah Holman, Jayci Lawrence, Sofie Robinson, and Nick Waale. Congratulations all of you!

**FPC Scholarship Opportunity:** Our First Presbyterian Church scholarship is now available. This scholarship is open to those who will be starting their first year of college. The deadline to apply is May 1. Please contact Kayla Bones at [kbones@firstpresfargo.org](mailto:kbones@firstpresfargo.org) if you have any questions. You can find the application forms at [firstpresfargo.org/scholarships](http://firstpresfargo.org/scholarships).

**Pilgrimage Photography Course:** The Pilgrimage will be taking a Contemplative Photography retreat to Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park at the end of August. For more information please visit [www.firstpresfargo.org/adult-education](http://www.firstpresfargo.org/adult-education), or contact Kit O'Neill at [kit.oneill@outlook.com](mailto:kit.oneill@outlook.com).

**Don't Forget to Register for VBS!**

Vacation Bible School will take place from June 3rd through the 6th. Scan the QR code to access the registration form, or you can find a link on our website at [www.firstpresfargo.org/children](http://www.firstpresfargo.org/children).



**May Plant Exchange:** Did you have an overactive green thumb this winter and have more plants than you have space? Now is the time to divide your overgrown house plants or outdoor plants and exchange them for something new at our Spring Plant Exchange! May 12th after worship we will be coordinating a plant exchange. Much like the produce exchange last fall, we will have space for house-plants, outdoor landscaping plants, vegetable garden starter plants and herbs. If you can plant it, we will exchange it!

## CELEBRATION Brunch

SUNDAY | 12TH MAY | 11:30 AM  
in the Social Hall



What a year its been -  
let's celebrate with brunch! All  
are invited to join in fellowship.

We'll have fancy fruit, yogurt parfaits, eggs, and homemade maple syrup from Perham maple trees to top off Steve's famous pancakes!



Sponsored by EduCon

**Hearing devices**, as well as **large print copies of today's bulletins and 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:** Mindy Argall, Abi Carlson, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Tetteh Dottey, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Jeff Wilkens, and Steve Wonderlich. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, David Hoffman, Jane Mathew (moderator), Donna Rummens, Wayne Sander, Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens. **Church Treasurer:** Sherri Stern.

### Church Staff

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood-*Head of Staff, Pastor*  
The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Associate Pastor*  
The Rev. Daniel Billings-*Parish Associate*  
The Rev. Cathie Bishop-*Parish Associate*  
Sally Harmon-*Organist*  
Pam Burns-*Music Ministry Coordinator*  
Shawn Neisen-*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**

MISSION COMMITTEE  
& THE EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY  
**BIRTHDAY BAGS PROJECT**

EFP is looking for donations of:

- Cake Mix (white, yellow, chocolate, or confetti)
- Frosting
- Birthday Cards

Please drop donations off in the Holy Buckets Through April & May

Mission is looking for donations of:

- Card Games
- Birthday Hats

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

### **Sunday, April 28**

*11:30* Fellowship

### **Monday, April 29**

No Church Events

### **Tuesday, April 30**

*10:30* Town Hall Lecture Series @ Prairie Heights

1:00 Consolidation Informational Meeting (Z)

### **Wednesday, May 1**

5:00 Wednesday Activities Dinner

5:30 Consolidation Informational Meeting

5:30 All Church Orchestra Rehearsal

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

### **Thursday, May 2**

12:15 Centering Prayer

4:30 Heart-n-Soul Appreciation Dinner

### **Friday, May 3**

No Church Events

### **Saturday, May 4**

No Church Events

### **Sunday, May 5**

*10:30* Worship Service with All Church Orchestra & Communion (L)

*11:30* Fellowship

**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

April 21 Attendance: 258

220 in person

38 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$11,322.00



### Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

[www.firstpresfargo.org](http://www.firstpresfargo.org)

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