



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 7, 2024

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Partita on "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. John Eggert

WELCOME

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Living Lord, you meet us in unexpected places and surprise us with the abundance of your love. Feed us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may follow you this day, and always; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said,

"Follow me."

Jesus said,

"Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Jesus said,

"Forgive seventy times seven."

Jesus said,
"Feed my sheep."
In response, we say:
"Here's my heart.
Take and seal it.
Seal it for thy courts above."
Let us worship God with all our hearts.
Let us worship the God of Easter.

 **HYMN 250** *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

 **CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Gracious God, Like Peter, we crawl out of the boat only to sink. You tell us your truth and we push it away. We ask about forgiveness and are surprised by abundance. We profess our faith and deny it three times. We run to the empty tomb and leave in silence. Over and over again, we find ourselves wandering along the journey of faith. Tether us to your heart. Forgive our surprise, our denial, and our limited imagination. Call us out of the boat once more. We are eager to return to you. With humble hearts we pray, amen.

 **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

Hands Are Knockin'

Kyle Pederson

The Statesmen of NDSU; Shawn Neisen, director;
Guilherme Montenegro, pianist; Owen Cary, drummer

Naftahhu athhanana, Alhamdulillah
Naftahhu qulubana, Alhamdulillah
Namuddu aydeeyana, Alhamdulillah

We open our minds, thanks to God (Alleluia)
We open our hearts, thanks to God (Alleluia)
We reach out our hands, thanks to God (Alleluia)

The Word

SCRIPTURE

John 21:1-19, pp. 989

Elder Bruce Maylath, reader

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

SERMON

Here's My Heart

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

GIFT OF MUSIC

Here Is Love

Emily Feld/Shawn Neisen

The Statesmen of NDSU; Shawn Neisen, Director;

Guilherme Montenegro, pianist

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who shows up in our lives— surprising and catching us off-guard in the best of ways. We believe in a God who cares for God's people— a shepherd who longs for her sheep to be fed and tended. We believe in a God who took on flesh— a God whose love changed the world as we know it. We believe that this here-and-now God invites us out of the boat, calling ordinary people like Peter, like us, into a life of service and community. And so we give our hearts. We give our whole hearts and nothing less. Amen.



Feed My Sheep | Nicolette Peñaranda
Yarn and paper collage on canvas

The Sealing of the Word

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

The words spoken by the pastor bless the bread and cup on the table and all the elements that are an extension of this table.

HYMN OF APPROACH 536 *Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen* (verses 1 and 2)

Rise, O church, like Christ arisen, from this meal of love and grace;
may we through such love envision whose we are, and whose, our praise.
Alleluia, alleluia: God, the wonder of our days.

Rise, transformed, and choose to follow after Christ, though wounded, whole;
broken, shared, our lives are hallowed to release and to console.
Alleluia, alleluia: Christ, our present, past, and goal.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Appalachian Pastorale
Sally Harmon, organist

Franklin D. Ashdown

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Responding to the Word



MOMENT FOR MISSION – Rape and Abuse Crisis Center
Use the QR code to access the secure giving portal on our website!

Jody Hudson

OFFERTORY

Zion's Walls

Aaron Copland

The Statesmen of NDSU; Shawn Neisen, director;
Guilherme Montenegro, pianist



RESPONSE 609

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessing 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



WORDS TO WANDER BY

Here's My Heart

Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed / A Sanctified Art LLC / sanctifiedart.org

As a child I made a nativity
set for my mother—
pinch pot clay, uneven
angel wings,
hair made with the help of a
garlic press,
Joseph's staff rolled out like
I was God
and it was an earthworm.
There was nothing beautiful
about it,
nothing whispering of talent,
but I made it for my mother!
So I wrapped
that questionable piece of
art in a box
and gave it to her
like I was handing her
a Picasso.
Here, mother,
you carried me in your womb.
You bandaged my knees
when I fell.
You made soup when

I was sick.
You rocked me to sleep as
an infant
and sewed my costumes
by hand.
In return, I made you this
haphazard nativity!
And in my childlike mind,
I thought that the small
white lamb,
molded from a lumpy piece
of clay,
could somehow make us even,
could somehow balance
the scales,
could somehow pay her back.
And bless my mother,
because in her grace,
she smiled and she
displayed that
hodge-podge nativity set
on the mantel
as if it were her pride and joy.
(I believed that it was.)

Maybe that's the way it is
with God.
I say, Here's my heart
and God smiles.
And God takes it.
And despite the ragtag nature

of my human-hearted faith,
whatever I can give always
ends up on God's mantel.
Whatever I can give always
calls for pride and joy.



HYMN 475

Come, Thou Fount

Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.



BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Paraphrase & Finale on "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"* arr. John Eggert
Sally Harmon, organ

Thank you to Jaden Argall, Tom Bigwood, and Bruce Maylath for assisting us in worship, and to our Welcome Team: Tetteh Dottey, Jane Mathew, Claudia Hansen, Dianne Connelly, and Carrie Lawrence & family for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Sally Harmon, and The Statesmen of NDSU, currently being conducted by our own Shawn Neisen. The Statesmen is a non-auditioned ensemble of tenor and bass voices with participants across a variety of majors on campus. We are thrilled to have them with us today.



Men's Bible Study: The men's Bible study convenes again on Tuesday, April 9th at 6:45 a.m., in the Jennie Roberts Room. Coffee and breakfast pastries will be served. 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 Book of Genesis. A copy of the study guide can be obtained from Bruce Maylath. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

Town Hall Lecture Series: Town Hall resumes on Tuesday, April 30, with inspirational speaker, community advocate, and podcast host Rebecca Udem. As founder and executive director of Growing Small Towns, a regional nonprofit organization, Udem helps communities in southeast ND be places people love to call home through programs that grow their human, social, and cultural capital. The lecture begins at 10:30 am at Prairie Heights Community Church, 319 32nd Ave. E., West Fargo. Tickets are \$40 and are available at the door. Tickets will also be sold before and after worship next Sunday, April 14.

EduCon is bringing back the popular Bingo Night! Join us this Friday, April 12 at 6 p.m. for pizza and several games of Bingo. Please register on the Volunteer Opportunities board, or by scanning the QR code.

Covenant of Prayer: Vicki Dawson and family upon the death of Vicki's mother, Bev Nathe, on April 1.

Micah's Mission: We need 2-3 more preparers for this Thursday, April 11. Sign up sheets are at the Volunteer Opportunities Board in the West Foyer for May 9 and June 13 as well. Micah's Mission is the shelter with Churches United for the Homeless, of which we're blessed to be a charter member. Come and be a part of this longstanding mission!

Registration for Vacation Bible School is open! VBS will take place from June 3rd through the 6th, starting at 5:30pm with family dinner, and programming to follow. Scan the QR code to access the registration form, or you can find a link to the form on our website at www.firstpresfargo.org/children.

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

Upcoming Meetings: The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Fargo is considering consolidation with First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead and Westminster Presbyterian Church in Baker Downer. We are hosting several informational meetings so we can share our plans in more detail, answer your questions, and get your feedback. We hope that you will join us for one of the offered times. A recording of one of the meetings will be available in early May. The meeting dates are as follow, and will all be held here at the church: Mon. 4/8 at 7pm, Thurs. 4/11 at 1pm, Sun. 4/14 at 11:45am, Sun. 4/28 at 9am, and Wed. May 1 at 5:30pm. There will also be a Zoom-only meeting on Tues. 4/30 at 1pm; if you would like to attend this meeting please register online at www.firstpresfargo.org/consolidation. There you can also find a list of FAQs. We look forward to meeting with you.

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

Sunday, April 7

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, April 8

5:30 EduCon Committee Meeting

7:00 Informational Meeting

Tuesday, April 9

6:45 Men's Bible Study

5:30 Board of Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, April 10

10:00 PW Bible Study Leaders

5:00 Wednesday Activities Dinner

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass Rehearsal

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, April 11

12:15 Centering Prayer

1:00 Informational Meeting

5:30 Nurturing Families

Friday, April 12

6:00 Bingo & Pizza Night

Saturday, April 13

No Church Events

Sunday, April 14

8:45 Second Sunday Activities Begin

10:30 Worship Service (L)

11:30 Fellowship

11:45 Informational Meeting

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

March 31 Attendance: 424

355 in person

69 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$6,249.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

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