



*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**

Extravagant God, you pour out blessings upon us and lead us on the path of true life. Help us to choose your way again and again, that we might revel in your love and reflect it to all we meet. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

### **PRELUDE**

*All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

arrs. Behnke/Post

*The National Spiritual Anthem of Ukraine*

(Please remain seated and reflect on the text, found on the back page)

Sally Harmon, organist

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

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

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

O God of Life, You are as near to us as our breath. Open our eyes,  
**that we may see you in everything and everyone around us.**

Unstop our ears,

**that we may hear cries of joy and of sorrow.**

Enter our hearts,

**that we may be filled with Your love, and share it with your creation.**

### **\*HYMN 385**

*All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell. Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk; he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise; approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good; his mercy is forever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.

### **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

So much of the pain we cause in this world is unintentional. We try to live good lives, taking care of our families, serving our communities, but our acts of caring can still have disastrous consequences for others. That's why we need to confess our sins and why we need Jesus' help.

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Creator God, you made us to be neighbors, members of one family in all our variety. You created us to be helpers and friends to one another, entrusting to us your justice and your joy. Yet by what we have done and what we have failed to do, we have denied justice and joy to many, creating worlds of poverty, pain, lost opportunities, and absence of hope. In so many ways, we break each other's hearts. Still, you do not reject us. We ask your forgiveness and pray for our eyes to be opened and our hearts filled. Amen.**

### **\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Jesus knew how hard it was for us to give up our own self-interests. But he was a patient teacher and through his sacrifice and love he showed us how much we all matter. Friends, believe in the Good News of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

### **\*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**

## **The Word**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Claudia Hansen, Reader

Holy and merciful God, we have come to hear your word. Help us to bear it. Break down in us all that resists your will and plant in us a willingness to turn, for we would live; we would be your disciples. By your Spirit, come to us, now, in ancient texts, in everyday visions, in the need of our neighbor; we pray in the name of Jesus, our light. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

*Luke 14:25-33*

Now large crowds were traveling with him; and he turned and said to them, 'Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

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

**SECOND READING**

*Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18*

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.  
For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.  
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end—I am still with you.

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

**SERMON**

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

**\*HYMN 488**

*I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

“I was there to hear your borne cry; I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.  
I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;  
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.”

“When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.  
You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong.  
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.”

“In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,  
I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun.  
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,  
I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.”

“I was there to hear your bawling cry, I’ll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.”

## Responding to the Word

OFFERING



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

OFFERTORY

*What Wondrous Love is This*  
Nancy Norris & Virginia Stern, piano duet

arr. Raney

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## Sealing of the Word

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

### PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD

Theodore Akwetey Dottey, child of Carrie Miranda and Tetteh Obuobi Dottey  
Abi Carlson, presiding elder

### \*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.**

### THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

### BAPTISM

### WELCOME

Theodore Akwetey has been received...Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you into Christ’s church to share with us in his ministry, for we are all one in Christ.**

## BAPTISMAL RESPONSE

You have put on Christ, in Christ you have been bap - tized.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu ia!

## 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 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.**

#### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

#### **HYMN OF APPROACH 516** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken (verses 1-2)*

For the bread which you have broken, for the wine which you have poured,  
for the words which you have spoken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.

By this promise that you love us, by your gift of peace restored,  
by your call to heaven above us, hallow all our lives, O Lord.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**COMMUNION MUSIC** *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*  
Nancy Norris & Virginia Stern, piano duet

arr. Love

#### PRAYER

## Bearing the Word into the World

#### **\*HYMN 634**

*To God Be the Glory*

To God be the glory; great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

#### *Refrain:*

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord; let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory: great things he has done!

Great things he has taught us; great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder,  
our transport, when Jesus we see. [Refrain]

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata on "All People That on Earth Do Dwell*

arr. Burkhardt

*The National Spiritual Anthem of Ukraine*

Lord, oh the Great and Almighty,  
Protect our beloved Ukraine,  
Bless her with freedom and light  
Of your holy rays.

With learning and knowledge enlighten  
Us, your children small,  
In love pure and everlasting  
Let us, oh Lord, grow.

We pray, oh Lord Almighty,  
Protect our beloved Ukraine,  
Grant our people and country  
All your kindness and grace.

Bless us with freedom, bless us with wisdom,  
Guide into kind world,  
Bless us, oh Lord, with good fortune  
Forever and evermore.



**Serving at Micah's Mission continues:** Thank you to those who have been preparing and serving meals at Micah's Mission (part of Churches United for the Homeless). Our commitment continues every second Thursday of the month. A sign up sheet is at the Volunteer Opportunities Board if you're wishing to help on September 8 and/or October 13. We need 4 meal preparers from 3-5pm and 4 servers from 5-7pm. Come and be a part of this longstanding partnership.

**Pilgrimage: Richard Rohr "Alternative Orthodoxy" class open to all:** How do contemplation, mysticism, compassion, and justice inform Christianity? With Rohr's videos facilitated by spiritual director Maren Ortmeier, this 5-session course provides new insight into age-old theology.

**When:** Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00 P.M., September 13 through October 11

**Where:** Social Hall and Zoom.

Purchase of Rohr's book is highly recommended.

Contact: Mike Wavra, wavamw@aol.com or 701- 566-1483.

**Presbyterian Women** will be meeting at 10am in the Social Hall on Sept. 13 for muffins and bible study. Mary Holtey will introduce this year's bible study, *Celebrating Sabbath* and Lesson 1. Please join us.

**Man Up Bible Study Retreat** is scheduled for Sept. 16 & Sept. 17. It will be held at the Country Inn & Suites in Detroit Lakes. The study session will start at around 7:00 p.m. on Friday at the inn.

Contact Bruce Maylath (ring4linguist@yahoo.com or 701-866-2626) for more information.



**Covenant Of Prayer:** Jennifer; Hannah; 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.

**The Emergency Food Pantry** is in desperate need of volunteers for the summer and into the fall. Volunteers can pick the hours, days and times that work best for them. Several different tasks are available. Please contact the Pantry directly at 701-237-9337 or contact Jan Harrison at 701-371-1855 if you have questions. For more information about volunteering or to sign up online please visit [www.emergencyfoodpantry.com/volunteer/](http://www.emergencyfoodpantry.com/volunteer/)

**Town Hall:** A new season for Fargo Town Hall is starting on September 20. This new season includes a new day, Tuesdays at 10:30 am, and a new location at Prairie Heights Church, 319 32nd Ave. West Fargo. Please visit the website [fargotownhall.org](http://fargotownhall.org) for more information.



**New Office Staff:** First Presbyterian welcomes Casey LeMier as the new Communications and Administrative Assistant. Born and raised in Fargo, they studied at the University of Jamestown for Computer Science. They enjoy singing at their home church in south Fargo, playing with their cat, and creating in a number of different ways; drawing, painting, and cross-stitch to name a few. They are very excited to start this new chapter of their life with us, and look forward to getting to know the church and its people!

**Hearing devices and large print copies of today's hymns** are available, please ask an usher for assistance.

**The Nursery** is not staffed during the summer months. Parents are welcome to use the nursery while supervising their young children. There's a TV monitor in the room so that you are able to watch the service.

**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, Gracia Fulwiler, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Donna Rummens, Candy Shultz, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens.

**Treasurer:** Ed Deckard

**Church Staff**

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood-*Head of Staff, Pastor*

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-*Associate Pastor*

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*

**Most staff emails are:**

**(first initial and last name of person)**

**@firstpresfargo.org**



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

**Sunday, September 4**

*11:30* Coffee & Fellowship

**Monday, Sept. 5**

Labor Day—Office Closed

1:00 Bulletin Insert Articles Due

**Tuesday, Sept. 6**

*9:30* Presbyterian Women Board Meeting

*10:30* Staff Meeting

**Wednesday, Sept. 7**

1:00 Pilgrimage Guides

5:30 Genesis Ringers

5:30 St. Andrews Brass

6:15 Children / Youth Choirs

6:30 Pilgrimage Guides

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

**Thursday, Sept. 8**

3:00 Prepare & Serve at Micah's Mission

5:00 Nurturing Parenting Meal & Classes

**Friday, Sept. 9**

No Church Events

**Saturday, Sept. 10**

No Church Events

**Sunday, Sept. 11**

*10:30* Worship—**Rally Sunday**

*11:30* Congregational Lunch

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

**For Your Information**

August 28 Attendance:

103 in person;

41 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$19,587.00



**Church Information**

Summer Office Hours:

M-TH, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

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