



November 20: Christ the King &
Thanksgiving Sunday

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

God of all times and all places, be with us in this time and this place. Just as you have spoken to your people through prophets and poets, we pray that we might hear the Word you speak to us today. Just as you have spoken to your people through deeds and miracles, we pray that we might have eyes to see the Word you speak to us today. Just as you have called your people to act in the midst of your creation, we pray that we might have feet to walk and hands to reach out; for the sake of your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

arr. Childs

Sally Harmon, organist

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

INTROIT

He is the King of Kings!

Meares

K-2 Choir; Erin Torpey, director; Sally Harmon, piano

*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for God has looked favorably on God's people and redeemed them.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for God has called us God's own beloved and called each of us by name.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for God has blessed God's creation and called us to worship.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

Let us worship God!

HYMN 367Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;
from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

We do not confess our sins in the hope of forgiveness; we confess our sins with the certainty of forgiveness. For the apostle Paul assures us that we have been rescued from the power of darkness, and transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. And so with that promise, that assurance, that redemption we confess our sins before God and one another.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, we confess that we have neglected to declare Jesus the king and model for our lives. We have been quick to call on others to follow the ways of Christ yet slow to do the same. We have been bold in demanding generosity, mercy, and forgiveness yet quiet when it comes to offering inclusion, love, and compassion. Forgive us, O God. Restore in us, yet again, the commitment to be more Christlike in word, in deed, and in spirit. Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

All things, in heaven and on earth, are reconciled to God in Jesus Christ. Forgiveness is ours through faith in the Lord, in whom God was pleased to dwell. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

RESPONSE 155Raise a Song of Gladness*

Raise a song of gladness, peo-ples of the earth. Christ has come,
 bring-ing peace, joy to ev - ery heart. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 joy to ev - ery heart! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, joy to ev - ery heart!

PASSING OF THE PEACE*GIFT OF MUSIC***So High*

Wolaver

3-6 Choir; Pam Burns, director; Eleanor Torpey, Soloist
 Penny Andrist, guitar; Sally Harmon, keyboard-strings;
 Bryan Poyzer, bass; Virginia Stern, piano

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Penny Andrist

The Word**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Brian McClure, Reader

Holy God, through the generations you have spoken to us. You have sent voices crying out in the wilderness. you have sent the words of an overjoyed new father and an expectant mother. You have sent the assurance of a condemned man on a cross. Quiet in us any voice but your own that, by the power of your Spirit, we might hear the words you speak to us today. Amen.

FIRST READING

Colossians 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

SECOND READING

Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!’ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, ‘If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!’ There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, ‘Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!’ But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.’ Then he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ He replied, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.’

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

SERMON

Creative Fire

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

*HYMN 336

We Gather Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!

We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Loving God, All: we give you thanks.

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

DID YOU KNOW? If you are 72 or over you generally must withdraw an amount from your retirement accounts every year (the required minimum distribution). This amount can be paid directly to a charity (like the church). Amounts distributed this way count towards the minimum distribution and are excluded from your taxable income. Contact the church for more details.

OFFERTORY

My Lord, What a Morning
Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director

arr. Johnson

*RESPONSE 611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Sealing of the Word

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD

Theodore Harold Laraway, child of Megan Anne and Mark Mason Laraway
Dick Laraway, 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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

BAPTISM

WELCOME

Theodore Harold has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made him a member of the household of God, to share with us in the priesthood of Christ. 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

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in common time, treble clef, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music. The first line of lyrics, "You have put on Christ, in Christ you have been bap - tized.", corresponds to the first measure of music. The second line, "Al - le - lu - ia!", corresponds to the second measure. The third line, "Al - le _____ lu ia!", corresponds to the third measure, where the blank space indicates a sustained note or a continuation of the previous line.

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

Bearing the Word into the World

***HYMN 643**

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

arr. Manz



Delivering Thanksgiving Meals: Sign up at the Volunteer Opportunities Board in the west foyer of the church if you are able to deliver meals midday on Wednesday, November 23, or if you are able to help assemble the meals that same morning. The meals will be prepared, assembled, and picked up for delivery at Square One Kitchen. We are delivering upwards of 400 meals, needing 15-20 drivers.

Hope Blooms: We're partnering with Hope Blooms to give flowers along with our Thanksgiving meals. If you'd like to put the bouquets together on that Tuesday evening, sign up online or contact Pastor Mary.

hope
blooms

Bouquet Arranging

Volunteers needed to help assemble bouquets to be delivered with Thanksgiving meals

Visit firstpresfargo.org for more information

Make Stewardship Easy! You can set up the amount you've pledged as a recurring gift to the church. It couldn't be any easier! We offer both an ACH withdrawal from your bank account (no fees!) or Online Giving through our website. Recurring gifts are like the Crock Pot of church giving - "fix it and forget it". Easy for you and it helps the church to see a steady stream of income through the year. Give it a try! There's an ACH Authorization form on our website under "Forms". Questions? Please contact Jan Lundgren, jlundgren@firstpresfargo.org.



Covenant Of Prayer: Jennifer; Hannah; David; 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.

Red Kettle Campaign – Bell Ringing: Signup sheets to ring the bell for the Salvation Army's feeding programs will be in the foyer after worship today. All locations are indoors, starting the week of Thanksgiving and through the holiday season. Contact Ginger Deitz with questions, deitzv@gmail.com.



Christmas Poinsettias: We encourage you to purchase poinsettias for the Christmas season! More information can be found on the order forms, which are available at the Welcome Desk, or by contacting Casey LeMier in the office. Orders and payment should be delivered to the office **no later than noon on November 28th**. Please write a separate check for your poinsettia; do not include in your offering. Thank you!

Lefse Lessons: Do you love eating lefse at the holidays? Have you always wanted to learn how to make it? Here is your chance! Come to this two day event to learn the art of Lefse! Day one will be spent preparing the potatoes and dough while trying two different methods, plus we'll share the secret to success! Day two will give an opportunity to roll, bake and taste. Come if you are a seasoned flipper or a wanna-be Scandinavian and celebrate this traditional holiday treat! No experience necessary, all skill levels welcome. Please sign up on the opportunities board or online so we know how many potatoes to plan for. Childcare available on Sunday. Saturday Dec 10th 1:00-4:00 meet in the Social Hall. Sunday Dec 11th following worship downstairs in the kitchen.

Saturday, December 10- make the dough
Sunday, December 11- bake and taste

LEFSE LESSONS

A circular image showing several pieces of golden-brown, rolled-up lefse served with butter and sour cream.

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 8:45** 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: 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, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Donna Rummens, Candy Shultz, Kathleen Thomas, Debbie Tight, and Amy Wilkens.

Church Treasurer: Sherri Stern

Church Staff

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

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

Rev. Daniel Billings-*Parish Associate*

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*

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, November 20

11:30 Fellowship

5:30 Confirmation

Monday, November 21

6:30 Session Meeting

Tuesday, November 22

10:30 Staff Meeting

5:00 Bouquet arranging @ Hope Blooms

Wednesday, November 23

Meal Preparation @ Square One Kitchens

12:00 Messenger Deadline

Thanksgiving Meal Delivery

6:15 Children / Youth Choirs

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, November 24

Office Closed

Friday, November 25

No Church Events

Saturday, November 26

No Church Events

Sunday, November 27

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship (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

November 13 Attendance: 228

172 in person;

56 households livestreamed

Contributions received: 26,213.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

Hanging of the Greens Service: Join us Sunday, Nov. 27 to celebrate the Hanging of the Greens. The readings, music, and visuals will focus on the meaning and symbolism of the different decorations that are used to adorn our sanctuary and homes during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. These preparations are but an outward reminder of our inner preparations for the coming of Christ. Join us in lighting the advent wreath as we begin this journey together.



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

We encourage you to purchase poinsettias for the Christmas season! A printed list of the names of the donors and the names of the persons being honored or remembered will be included in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.

Please **PRINT** your name; indicate how many poinsettias you would like, and if you would like to offer this flower in memory of, or in honor of someone special. Orders and payment should be delivered to the office **no later than noon on November 28**. *Please write a separate check for your poinsettia; do not include in your offering.* Thank you!

You can pick up your poinsettia at the church **after worship on Sunday, December 25**, or during office hours any day after that. Office hours are 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, M-TH.

Your Name (**PRINT**): _____

Size Options

6" Poinsettia (\$14.00)

Please PRINT. If more space is needed, please use back of order form.

To the glory of God
In memory of _____
In honor of _____

To the glory of God

In memory of _____

In honor of _____