



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.*

January 01, 2023 - Epiphany Sunday

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

It's Still the Greatest Story Ever Told
Bryan Poyzer, piano

Miller & Gaither

WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

MOMENT OF SILENCE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Emmanuel.

Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.

Praise God for making us siblings and cousins in Christ.

Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!

Let us worship God.

***HYMN #144**

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;

earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;

snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,

in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;

heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:

in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed

the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there;

cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;

but His mother only, in her maiden bliss,

worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

***CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, Jesus became like us in every respect so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God. As we confess our sins, we come before One who was also tested by what he suffered, confident that he is able to help us.

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when the way is hard. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity. Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children so vulnerable and precious in your sight. Forgive our misuse of power against people, and against your creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Do not be ashamed of us, we pray, but strengthen us in our time of testing. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who shared our flesh and blood. Amen.

Children of God...Declare with me the good news of the gospel: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

***RESPONSE**

Love Has Come!



Love has come and nev-er will leave us! Love is life ev - er - last-ing and free.



Love is Je-sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing.



Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!___

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-6, pp 676

Steve Dawson, reader

Matthew 2:1-12, pp.877

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

SERMON

By Another Road

The Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

***HYMN 151**

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (refrain)

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. (refrain)

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (refrain)

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. (refrain)

Responding to the Word



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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Bryan Poyzer, piano

***RESPONSE 136** *Go, Tell it on the Mountain (Refrain only)*

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Sealing of the Word

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD

Faye Eleanor Anderson, child of Whitney and William Anderson
Grandchild of Tim and JoAnn Conmy, Jim and Lisa McEvers, Mark and Pam Anderson
Andrea Smith, 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.

WELCOME

Elder to Congregation: Faye Eleanor has been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through baptism. God has made her 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

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

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

HYMN OF APPROACH 150 *As with Gladness Men of Old (vs. 1&2)*

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Bryan Poyzer, piano

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bearing the Word into the World

*HYMN 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (refrain)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (refrain)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World
Bryan Poyzer, piano

arr. Lanz



Have you noticed the 4 trees in the Gathering Space?

It's not too late to make a contribution to the Festival of Trees. The trees will be up until January 15th! Your items may be placed by the trees, and financial contributions may be mailed to the church, handed to a member of the Mission Committee or submitted online by using the church's website. Thank you for your continued support of mission!



Snowman building in the courtyard, Hot Chocolate in the foyer

Arts & Crafts Donations Needed! Our upcoming "Craftafternoon" needs your help to be a success! We are looking for gently-used or leftover craft supplies, specifically items used for wool felting, macrame, bath bombs, leather tooling, and paper quilling. Please contact Carrie Lawrence if you would like to donate! (701) 361-6162 or carrieL@outlook.com.

Men's Bible Study: The men's Bible study convenes for the new year on January 10th at 6:45 a.m., in the Jennie Roberts Room. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, October through May. Egg-bake, pastries, and coffee will be served this winter. 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 Job. A copy of the study guide can be obtained by requesting one from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

Covenant Of Prayer: Don Brummond, son of Joyce Brummond, with serious medical concerns; Jennifer; those without shelter who have died this past year; our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya; and the people of Ukraine.

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 on the Volunteer Opportunities Board if you wish to help Jan. 12 and Feb. 9. We need 4 meal preparers from 3-5pm and 4 servers from 5-7pm. Consider forming a team, or being part of a team. See Pastor Mary if this is for you! Come and be a part of this longstanding partnership.

PW Bible Study Leaders: On Jan. 11 Pastor Mary Holtey will present the Bible Study on Lesson 5 in the office conference room at 2:00pm.

2022 Year End Giving: Please have all contributions intended for the 2022 giving year turned in to the church office by Tuesday, January 3rd. The church office will be open from 9:00AM through 3:00PM that day. You can also use the drop box by the office door if you arrive after office hours. Any contributions received after that date will be recorded on your 2023 giving record. If you would like to know the balance of your 2022 pledge, email Jan Lundgren at jlundgren@firstpresfargo.org.

Welcome Dordt University Choir, Jan 8: First Presbyterian Church has been blessed to have Dordt Professor, **Ryan Smit**, worshiping and performing with us for the past few months as he receives his Doctorate in Choral Conducting from NDSU. The Dordt University choir will join us in worship on Sunday, January 8. They tour with their own organist, Isabel Munson, who will play the organ for our service in addition to accompanying the choir. Please give the choir a warm welcome and an enthusiastic congregation to listen to them sing. They will be having a concert at 7:30pm on Saturday, January 7, at Peace Lutheran Church. The concert is free, with a freewill offering.

CHILI COOK OFF

January 22 after worship



Sign up on the Volunteer Opportunities Board or here: <https://subspla.sh/rd2w7pd/>

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, Deb Dawson, Tom Dawson, Tetteh Dottey, Colleen Ford-Dunker, Jody Hudson, Kurt Kooyer, Dick Laraway, Carrie Lawrence, Bruce Maylath, Brian McClure, Elaine Rudd (clerk), Becky Trumbo, and Jeff Wilkens. **Deacons:** Paula Christensen, Toby Christensen, Steve Dawson, Brenda Deckard, Ed Deckard (treasurer), Gracia Fulwiler, Beatrice Janaka, Jane Mathew (moderator), Karen Rivers, Donna Rummens, Candy Shultz, Virginia Stern, 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



1:00 - 4:00 in the Social Hall

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JAN

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

Sunday, January 1, 2023

11:30 Fellowship

Monday, January 2

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 3

7:00 Mission Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 4

1:00 Pilgrimage Guides (Z)

5:30 Building & Grounds Committee Meeting

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children / Youth Choirs

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, January 5

No Church Events

Friday, January 6

No Church Events

Saturday, January 7

2:00 Hot Chocolate & Snowmen Building

Sunday, January 8

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship, Baptism, & Dordt University (L)

11:30 Fellowship

5:30 Confirmation

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

December 24 & 25 Attendance: 417
343 in person;
74 households livestreamed
Contributions received: \$61,757.51



Church Information

Office Hours:
M-TH, 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Phone: 701-293-6311
www.firstpresfargo.org

Christmas Eve Offering: Thank you to all who gave so generously at the Christmas Eve services. The offerings received were \$1,603.20, which will go to the Deacons' Emergency Relief Fund.

CRAFTERNOON!

Sign up on the Volunteer Opportunities Board