



Wandering Heart

"Teach me"

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.*

March 17, 2024

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling
When Memory Fades
Russell Romine, pianist

Will Thompson
Jean Sibelius

WELCOMEMOMENT OF SILENCE

Lord, may our hearts be filled with your love, mercy, and grace. Guide our words and actions. Give us strength to extend forgiveness to others, just as you have forgiven us. Grant us courage to pursue reconciliation following the example of Jesus. Let our healthy relationships be a testimony to your transformative power. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Why are you here?
**I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.**

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

I see it! You're in the right place!
This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.

We see that in you! You're in the right place.

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Let us worship God.

Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!



HYMN 318

In Christ There Is No East or West

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west; in him meet south and north.
All Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.



CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Holy God, We long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher." Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, "How many times should we forgive?" —make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray, Amen.



RESPONSE 595

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My
heart knows how to say to you: you are ho - ly Lord!



PASSING OF THE PEACE

GIFT OF MUSIC

Abide With Me

arr. Stephen Nelson

Sam Johnson, soloist; Krista Clusiau, pianist

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 119:9-16, pp. 555
Matthew 18:15-22, pp. 895

Lisa McEvers, reader
Whirl Story Bible, pg. 234

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

SERMON

Teach Me

The Rev. Sarah M Bigwood

HYMN 693

Though I May Speak

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

We believe that God is a teacher.

**We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,
with all our heart,
with all our mind,
with all our strength.**

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, 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 – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Ryan Johnston
Use the QR code to access the secure giving portal on our website!

Did you know? There is a handicap accessible and family restroom on this floor. It is to the left and around the corner from the main restrooms in the Gathering Space.



Seventy-seven Times | Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman
Digital painting

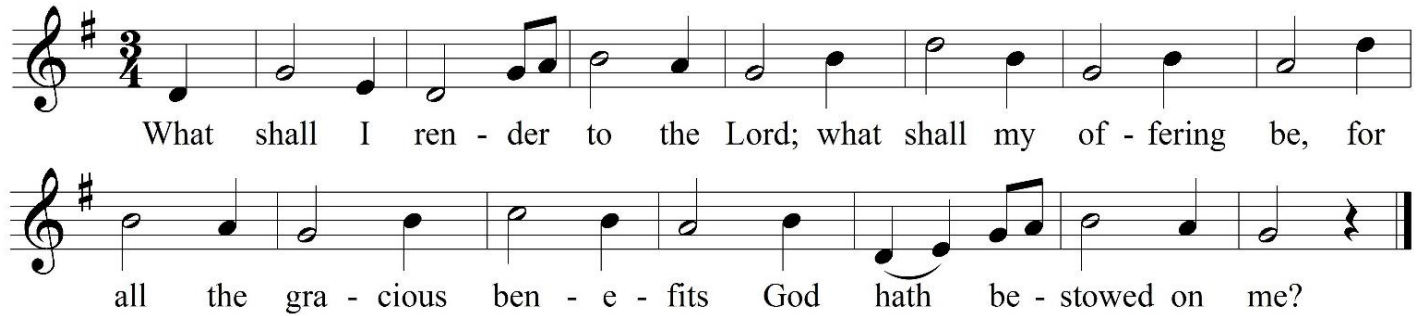
OFFERTORY

What Wondrous Love Is This
Virginia Stern and Nancy Johnson, piano duo

arr. Joel Raney

RESPONSE 655

What Shall I Render to the Lord



What shall I ren - der to the Lord; what shall my of - fering be, for
all the gra - cious ben - e - fits God hath be - stowed on me?

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

WORDS TO WANDER BY

Teach Me

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

Teach me about the ways of the wind,
about the ways of the world,
about the ways of the heart.

Teach me about the soft crook of my lover's arm,
and the way two souls can hold each other close.

Teach me about forgiveness, about the language of I'm sorry
and the softness of sincerity.

Teach me about abundance, about seventy-times-seven
and all the days of my life.

Teach me about joy, about its contagious weaving
and its soul-healing.

Teach me about mercy, about open hands and deep breaths.

Teach me about the dawn of time and the stars in the sky.

Teach me what matters most.
Teach me what is mine to do.
Teach this achingly curious heart
until I run out of questions
or I run out of days.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,
and I will have a life well-lived.

HYMN 722

Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.
As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.
O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet.
O feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart.
And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.
O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'erflow
in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.
O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where
until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.



BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sonata in F Major, K 332, I. Allegro
Russell Romine, pianist

W.A. Mozart

Thank you to Katie Bigwood, Tom Bigwood, and Lisa McEvers for assisting us in worship and to our Welcome Team: Kurt Kooyer, Toby Christensen, Paula Christensen, and Becky Trumbo and family for taking such good care of us this morning.

A special thank you to our musicians: Russell Romine, Sam Johnson, Krista Clusiau, Virginia Stern, and Nancy Norris.



Will you volunteer a few hours at the Pantry? March 18th-22nd is our week to volunteer at the Emergency Food Pantry, helping to put together food boxes for families. If you're able to help, please contact Jan Harrison at jharr25@aol.com, or find her on Sunday mornings. Just a few hours make all the difference!

PW Circles: Circles will meet Mar. 19 in the Jennie Roberts Room; Naomi/Ruth Circles will meet at 9:30am and the Rachel Circle will meet at 1:00pm. All women of the church are invited to attend. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Paula Christensen at 701-219-5795 or paulaandtoby@msn.com.

Centering Prayer: The Presentation Prayer Center, alongside our very own Pilgrimage group, is offering Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer is a form of silent prayer that quiets the mind and focuses attention on the presence and action of the Holy Spirit within. Find a moment of stillness in your day. Thursdays at 12:15pm in the Jennie Roberts Room.

Youth Lock-In! The spring Lock-In for our youth will be Friday, April 5th. RSVP to Kayla by March 27th if you would like to participate!



Phishing/SPAM Alert! The staff of FPC will never send email or text-message solicitations for money or gift cards. The most common signs of a phishing attempt are: an unfamiliar tone or greeting, grammar and spelling errors, inconsistencies in email addresses, links, and domain names, suspicious attachments, and threats or a sense of urgency.

Collecting donations for the Emergency Food Pantry: Minnesota FoodShare is doing their annual campaign in March, where they match the collected nonperishable food items and financial support. You may bring items to the church through April 7th and place them in the green buckets in the foyer, or bring them directly to the Pantry by Tuesday, April 9th. If you wish to make a financial contribution, you may give your clearly marked check to the church or directly to the Pantry. Thank you for your generous participation!



Will you volunteer to help with funeral receptions? Families have entrusted the church at their most difficult and vulnerable times. We want to respond with our love and support. Are you able to help, from time to time, with setting up, serving and cleaning up funeral receptions? Or, perhaps, you could bring a pan of bars. You, too, guys! Please sign up at the Volunteer Opportunities Board, or you may contact Nancy Lium directly at liumn1949@gmail.com. It's a privilege to serve one another!

Update from Town Hall: The speakers are selected for the 2024-2025 season and the brochure announcing them and their expected lecture dates have been mailed. For ease of our church members, we will sell season tickets before and after worship services on March 24th and April 14th.

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

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

Sunday, March 17

11:30 Pie Day Fellowship!

Monday, March 18

6:30 Session Meeting

Tuesday, March 19

9:30 PW Circles

1:00 PW Circle

Wednesday, March 20

1:00 Poverty Simulation with United Way

5:00 Wednesday Activities Dinner

5:00 Lay Preacher Seminar

5:30 Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 21

12:15 Centering Prayer

5:30 Nurturing Families

Friday, March 22

No Church Events

Saturday, March 23

12:00 Messenger Article Deadline

Sunday, March 24

10:30 Palm Sunday Worship Service (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

March 10 Attendance: 170

133 in person

37 households livestreamed

Contributions received: \$14,518.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

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