

A Dove's Tale:

# From Ruffled to Rejoicing

December 24, 2023 | 5:00pm



FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



*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.*

*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**

### **GIFTS OF MUSIC**

*The Canticle of the Turning*  
Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director

arr. Karen Thompson

*Hungarian Dances No. 3, No. 7*  
Andrew Froelich & Sally Harmon, piano duet  
(*It was a family tradition when Andrew Froelich was a child to play duets with his father on Christmas Eve.*)

Johannes Brahms

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*  
St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director

arr. John A. Ryther

### **WELCOME**

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

### **GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Jesus, What A Wonderful Child*  
Penny Andrist, Pam Burns, Kellie Pifer, trio; Sally Harmon, piano;  
Josh Trumbo, bass; Kevin Thomas, drums

arr. Rollo Dilworth

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

#### ✧ **CAROL 133**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created! [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

❖ **CALL TO CONFESSION**

❖ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age—worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways. Redeem us from evil and cleanse us from sin, through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.**

❖ **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

❖ **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!\_\_\_\_\_

❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **The Word**

### **CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

*A Dove's Tale: From Ruffled to Rejoicing*

Music by David Fandrich

Dove Monologue by First Presbyterian Church Staff (2016)

The Sanctuary Choir; Orchestra; Westminster Ringers; St. Andrew's Brass

Jill Post, director; Sally Harmon, organ

Katie Bigwood, Narrator (dove); Sarah Meester, Dancer (dove)

Jeff Olson, Caesar; Eleanor Torpey, Mary; Brian Peterson, Innkeeper; Benji Trumbo, Shepherd

Scripture read by Kevin Tobosa.

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers.*

*Please remain seated and join in singing each verse when directed.*



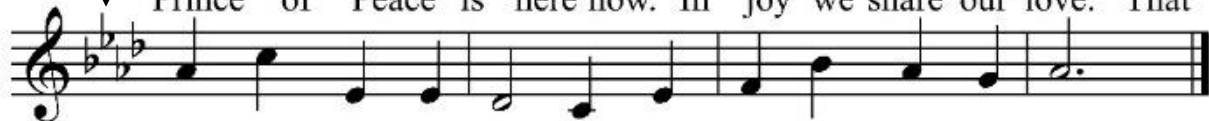
Choir: Re-joice, re-joice, O Caes-ar. In spite of all your fear, the  
All: Re-joice, re-joice, O Ma-ry. God's plan for you is clear. The  
Re-joice, re-joice, Inn-keep-er. There is no need to fear. The  
Re-joice, re-joice, O Shep-herds. Do not be filled with fright, but  
Re-joice, re-joice, Be-liev-ers. The time of fear is past. The



Choir: Ho-ly One is com-ing. His time is draw-ing near. The  
All: babe that you now car-ry, our Sa-vior, will ap-pear. The  
sta-ble you pro-vi-ded will hold the babe most dear. The  
list-en to the mes-sage de-liv-ered in the night. The  
child for whom we wait-ed is born to us at last! The



Choir: babe whose name is Jes-us a time of peace will bring. And  
All: pro-phet has fore-told it: The time is draw-ing nigh. In  
one whose name is Jes-us will in the mang-er lay; all  
King of Peace, a ba-by, the Sa-vior of the world is  
Prince of Peace is here now. In joy we share our love. That



Choir: all will feel his bless-ing, a diff-'rent kind of king.  
All: Beth-le-hem of Ju-dah the an-gels fill the sky.  
swad-dled, warm and sleep-y, 'mid an-i-mals and hay.  
her-ald-ed by an-gels with bril-liant wings un-furled.  
gift of love he gives us comes free-ly from a-bove.

❖ **CAROL 132**      *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice! (Verses 1 and 3)*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## ❖PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Heidelberg Catechism  
adapted from questions 35 & 36

**Jesus “was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary” which means, that the eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature so that he might also become David’s true descendant, like his brothers and sisters in every way except for sin. For this reason, the holy conception and birth of Christ benefit me because Christ is my mediator and, in God’s sight, he covers with his innocence and perfect holiness the sinfulness in which I was conceived.**

*Background: Soon after Luther posted his ninety-five theses, Lutherans and Reformed Christians established The Heidelberg Catechism to help settle their divisions. Their work was completed in 1562. Each question of the catechism is personal, addressed to “you.” Its theology is both catholic, universal in appeal, and evangelical, setting forth the gospel of Jesus Christ providing a basis for peaceful coexistence between Lutheran and Reformed Christians. The influence of the Heidelberg Catechism in the church’s preaching and teaching continues to be felt in Germany, Austria, Holland, Hungary, parts of Eastern Europe, Scotland, Canada, and the United States.*

## 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.**

*Although the candles we are using tonight are flameless, there is significance to the imagery of passing the flame on a night in which we celebrate the peace and unity given to the church through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. So, please wait to light your candle until the flame bearers reach your pew. Raise your flame during the final verse.*

### CAROL 122

#### *Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

## Responding to the Word

### OFFERING

*Tonight’s loose offering will support the Deacon’s Emergency Relief Fund.*





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

## OFFERTORY

*O Holy Night*

Adolph Adam / arr. Ed Lojeski

Claudia Hansen, handbell solo; Sally Harmon, piano

## ✦RESPONSE 128 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (verse 1)

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;

oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!

## ✦PRAYER OF DEDICATION

# Bearing the Word into the World

## ✦CAROL 134

*Joy to the World!*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;

let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;

he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,

far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

## ✦BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Fantasy on Joy to the World!*

arr. Evan Copely

Sally Harmon, organist

Members of St. Andrew's Brass and the Chamber Orchestra:

Lauren Bontje, Sara Smith, Kathleen Thomas, Robbie Bigwood, violin; Bill Comita, Eduard Teregulov, cello; Joe Roehl bass; Krista Clusiau, flute; Catherine Tesch, clarinet; Josh Argall, Greg Post, Mike Wavra, trumpets; Dave Stern, trombone; Shane Erstad, Euphonium; Carl Weir, tuba; Kevin Thomas, percussion; Sue Horton, harp

## The poinsettias adorning our Sanctuary today have been given...

In Loving Memory of...	By...
In memory of Chester & Myrna Ahlin, L.J. and Virginia Boekelheide, and Peggy Gaynor	Thomas & Jane Ahlin
William Carter	Kim Carter
Doug Hamilton	Deb Dawson
Jacob Dawson	Steve & Vicki Dawson
Bob & Edith, Chuck, and Gary Dawson	Kathy Fox Family, Tom & Georgia Dawson Family, and Steve & Vicki Dawson Family
Thomas Drayton	Polly Drayton
Glenn Filipi	Patricia Filipi
Doug Froelich	Andrew & Nancy Froelich
Ross & Peg Robson, Sandy Mathew, Joel & Vivian Broberg, Loran Guenther, Oscar & Jean Lindgren, Edith Dawson, and our parents	Bruce & Lorraine Furness
Stephen I. Morse, Elmer & Phyllis Haak	Tim & Linda Haak
Paul Gulbrandson and Do & Tod Gunkelman	Sally and David Harmon
Our parents	Fraser & Jan Harrison
Douglas & Evelyn Hoffman	David Hoffman
Mark Holman, Robert Aspelund, Inez & Oliver Holman, and Jim Rosendahl	Bobbie Holman
Arlo & Eleanor Lindsay	Ann Lindsay Howard
A.J. & Mildred Parsons Larew, Peggy Gaynor	Donald E. Larew
Wilson & Reba Laird and Neal & Luella McClure	Brian & Dorothy McClure
Our parents Ila & Harvey Coon and Jean & Gerry Shultz	Candy & David Shultz
Tom Tight, Marjorie & Fred Tight, Abbie & Bob Peterson	Debbie & Bob Tight
Our parents	Tom & Sue Van Osdel
Sheryl, Larry, and Dolly, our parents	Jeff & Amy Wilkens
In Honor of...	By...
Pastor Sarah and Pastor Mary	<i>Anonymous</i>
Our grandchildren, Elizabeth and Erik Anderson	Ed & Marion Anderson
Our children and grandchildren	Bruce & Lorraine Furness
Monna Rae Morse, Taaren Haak, Lea & Andrew Beck	Tim & Linda Haak
Our family	Fraser & Jan Harrison
Our family	Ted & Barb Kessel
To the Glory of God	By...
	Dick & Vicki Laraway