



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God, on this holy night we gather—to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

PRELUDE

<i>Joy to the World</i>	arr. Bober
Caleb Gadberry, piano	
<i>Silent Night</i>	arr. Davis
Kathleen Thomas, violin; Sally Harmon, piano	
<i>The Sussex Carol</i>	arr. Henderson
St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director	
<i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i>	arr. McChesney
Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director	

CHRISTMAS WELCOME: The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Do not be afraid; for see—

I am bringing you good news of great joy.

**To us is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.**

This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in cloth
and lying in a manger.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace!**

Let us now go to Bethlehem.

***LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

We light the Christ candle to symbolize God's promise fulfilled.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favor rests.

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

***CAROL 119:** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

In Jesus Christ our Lord
the grace of God has appeared,
bringing light to us all.
With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Great and 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. We choose to carry through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole. Amen.

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Hear this good news of great joy:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

Glory to God in the highest,
And peace to God's people on earth.

***RESPONSE:** *Love Has Come*



Love has come: a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the Beth-le - hem skies.



See, all heav-en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of joy a - ris - es:



Love! Love! Born un-to you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo-ry to God on high!_____

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

GIFT OF MUSIC

The Castleton Carol
Christmas Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director

arr. Cohn

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit,
teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words
and ponder them in our hearts;
through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen

LESSON: Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey & Claudia Hansen
Change Sings: A Children's Anthem
words by Amanda Gorman, pictures by Loren Long

***CAROL 122:** *Silent Night, Holy Night*

***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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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



GIVE

A reminder that offering plates are at the west & north doors of the sanctuary to receive your offering and yellow attendance cards or use the QR code to access the secure giving portal on our website!

Tonight's Offering will be given to the Board of Deacons' Emergency Relief Fund. Your donations will be used to help members and friends of the church in emergency situations, including rent, utilities, car repairs, food, and medical expenses. If you wish to make a payment toward your pledge or other offering, please note your intentions on your check or envelope.

OFFERTORY

Angels We Have Heard on High
Westminster Ringers

arr. Eithun

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

*CAROL 134: *Joy to the World*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World
Sally Harmon, organist

arr. Ore

**The poinsettias adorning our Sanctuary today have been given
by... in loving memory of...**

Sharon Dvorak
Polly Drayton

The John Resell Family

John & Candice Cox
Bruce & Lorraine Furness

Jan & Fraser Harrison
Ted & Barb Kessel
Jeff & Amy Wilkens
Debbie & Bob Tight

Don Larew
Tom & Sue Van Osdel
Chad, Jessica, Grace, and Jonah
DeJong
Thomas & Jane Ahlin

Sally Harmon and family
Paula, Kathleen, and Kevin Thomas
Betty Nelson Howe
Bobbie Holman

Pat, David, and Jane Filipi
Joyce Cole
Jean Pladson

Steve & Vicki Dawson Family
Kathy Fox Family, Tom & Georgia
Dawson Family, and Steve & Vicki
Dawson Family

by...

Bruce & Loraine Furness
Jan & Fraser Harrison
Jill & Greg Post
Mary C. Devig

by...

Judy Rippentrop
Gracia Fulwiler
Mary C. Devig

David L. Dvorak; Jean & Les Dorr
Thomas Drayton; Gurney & Carol Drayton; Walter,
Leota, and Warren Moller

John and Jennifer Resell; John & Elizabeth Resell;
Adolph & Mae Blomquist

our parents; Graham Jordan; Judit Hart
Ross Robson; Oscar & Jean Lindgren; Sandy
Mathew; Edith Dawson; Loran Guenther; Joel &
Vivian Broberg; our parents.

our parents

our parents

our parents: Larry, Dolly, and Sherry
Tom Tight; Marjorie & Fred Tight; Abbie & Bob
Peterson

A.J. & Mildred Larew

our parents

Dennis DeJong

Chester & Myrna Ahlin; L.J. & Virginia
Boekelheide

Paul Gulbrandson; Do & Tod Gunkelman

Mack Thomas; Robert & Maxine Yates

Otis Nelson; Ron Nelson; Ken Toop; George Howe

Mark Holman; Robert Aspelund; Jim Rosendahl;

Oliver Holman; Inez Holman; Terry Holman

Glenn Filipi

Prentiss Cole

Jerry Pladson and our parents

Jacob Dawson

Bob, Edith, Gary, and Chuck Dawson

in honor of...

our children and grandchildren

our grandchildren and great grandson

Ardis Severson

my loving family

to the glory of God