

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Fargo, North Dakota

Third Sunday in Lent March 15, 2020 10:30 am



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

Prelude

Pavan-Almand & Ayre
St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director

Locke

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, Great I Am, you are living water. As we worship you this day show us who we are: channels of your love and vessels of your grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

*Call to Worship

O come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.
The hour is coming and is now here.
In spirit and truth, let us worship God!

*Hymn 2

Come, Thou Almighty King

*Call to Confession

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
Trusting in God's overflowing grace, let us confess our sin.

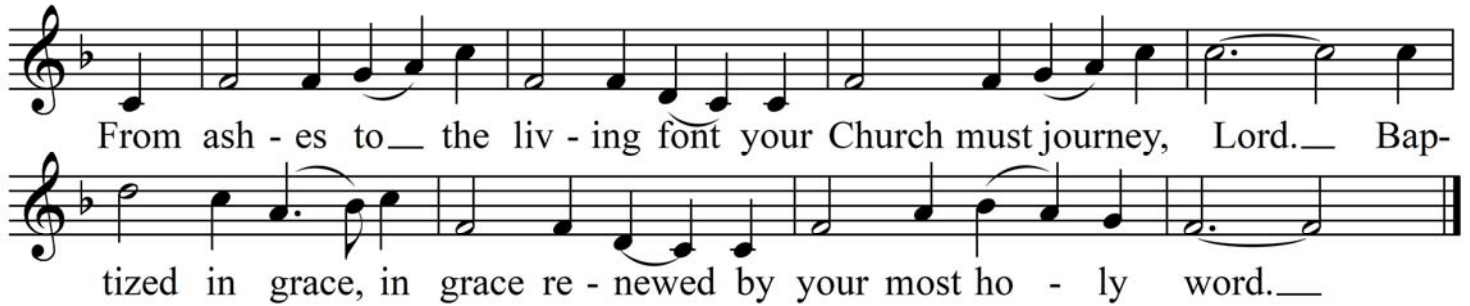
***Prayer of Confession**

Lord, you know who we are. You know everything we have done. We thirst for things that will never satisfy us. We commit ourselves to things that will never last. We worship things that will never bring salvation. Still, you offer us the gift of living water. Still, you offer us the gift of eternal life. Forgive us, O Lord, and give us this living water, so that we may never thirst again. Amen.

***Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

***Response**

From Ashes to the Living Font



***Passing of the Peace** (due to colds & flu, greet one another without obligation to shake hands)

Gift of Music

You Who Are Thirsty
Sanctuary Choir; Pam Burns, directing

Ross

Children's Message

Penny Andrist

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Roberta Mohagen

First Lesson

Psalm 95

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the Lord is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
O come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.
O that today you would listen to his voice!
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
when your ancestors tested me,
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, 'They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways.'
Therefore, in my anger I swore,
'They shall not enter my rest.'

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

Second Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin, the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So, Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

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

Sermon

The Wilderness of Sin

The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Lang

*Hymn 638

O Come and Sing unto the Lord

*Affirmation 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

Offertory

Come Thou Fount

arr. Marvin

St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director

*Response

refrain from *Jesu, Jesu*



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

*Prayer of Dedication

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 67**

My Song Forever Shall Record

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude

Come, Thou Almighty King

arr. Pethel

Any children who would like to watch Sally play the postlude are welcome to
come up by the organ.



Covenant Of Prayer: Ryan Johnston and family upon the death of his grandmother, Helen Julkowski, on March 1; Carolyn; Sarah; those who are experiencing homelessness in our community; and our sister congregation in Chogoria, Kenya.

Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer: Tom Drayton, Poland; Angelica Martin, KY; Daniel Martin, KS; Will Van Osdal, CA; Stacey Lockwood, Middle East; Bryan Spear, in the states. If you have a loved one in the military, please let Pastor Mary know and we'll include his/her name.

Pi(e) Day Social: The Pi(e) Day Social is **today after worship**. Please head downstairs and join EduCon in the Social Hall to enjoy a slice (or two) of pie and toppings. THANK YOU to all who baked/donated pies!

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord- An Organ Recital: **Today at 4:00 pm.** Fargo native and organist, Benton Schmidt, will present a collection of liturgical music inspired by the Magnificat, the Virgin Mary's "song of praise" recorded in the Gospel of Saint Luke. Many composers have written organ settings of this hymn, and this recital will present those of Dietrich Buxtehude and Heinrich Scheidemann, two German masters of the Baroque era. The late Italian Renaissance will be represented in selections from an organ Mass by Girolamo Frescobaldi. Also included will be the Ave Maris Stella versets of Marcel Dupré, one of the greatest organists of the 20th century. No organ recital would be complete without Johann Sebastian Bach, so this concert will begin with the exciting Toccata in F, and end with the companion double Fugue. This event will showcase our church's 2007 Schantz organ. It is free and open to the public.

Holy Buckets: This month's mission is Minnesota FoodShare. We are collecting nonperishable food items for the Emergency Food Pantry. Peanut butter and canned meats are especially needed. Items may be placed in the buckets in the Foyer.

You may consider making a financial donation instead. Dollars are stretched further when they can buy in bulk. Labeled envelopes are available at the Welcome Desk Info Kiosk and Narthex (or place your clearly marked check in the offering plate). A great percentage of your donations (pounds of food as well as dollars) is matched by the Minnesota FoodShare Program.

A Peek @ Next Week: We will be enjoying music by the Sanctuary Choir.

Fiddles, Pipes and Harps! **March 16, 7:00 pm.** *Fiddles, Pipes and Harps!* will be the theme for a St. Patrick's Day program presented by the FM Area Music Club in the Sanctuary. This is a free program, open to anyone who would like to attend. Refreshments will be served afterward.

PW News: The PW Circles will meet on **Tuesday, March 17** as follows: Naomi/Circle meets at 9:30 am at the church; Esther Circle meets at 9:30 am at the Kloubec Residence (2855 Evergreen Rd. -58102), and Rachel Circle meets at 1:00 pm at the church. Lesson 7 will be the focus. Leah circle will meet on Saturday, March 21 at 10:00 am at the church.

Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza is a workshop to introduce young pianists (elementary through college-age) to the pipe organ. This event begins at First Lutheran Church in Fargo at 9:00 am on **Saturday, March 28**, with a pizza lunch served at 11:00 am. **First Presbyterian's pipe organ will be featured from 12:30-2:00 pm**, followed by a stop at the Fargo Theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer. Anyone is welcome to be an observer/listener as the organs are demonstrated and then students get their hands-on chance to play. More information is available at rrtos.org/events.

Sing with the Choir: This is an invitation to sing with the choir as we prepare music for the seasons of Lent and Easter. Perhaps you've thought about singing with the choir but haven't wanted to commit for the full program year. Please know that all singers are welcome, whether for a short or long period of time. **Choir rehearsals are held in the choir room on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.** Please join us!

Palm Sunday Family Event: On **Palm Sunday, April 5**, children and parents will meet in the Social Hall during the Sunday School hour, 9:15-10:15. This will be a fun hour of fellowship among families as we create with crafts, feast on finger food, move to the music and prepare to parade our palms down the aisle at the beginning of the worship service.

There will be NO Sunday School on Easter morning. Families may choose between two identical worship services, 9:00 and 11:00 am.

OGHS: One Great Hour of Sharing – the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. **We will receive your gifts to OGHS throughout the season of Lent and dedicate them on Palm Sunday.** Envelopes are in the pew racks, the Narthex and the Welcome Desk Info Kiosk. *You shall be called repairers of the breach.* (Isaiah 58:12)

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 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)

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Paul H. Lang-Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey-Associate Pastor

Sally Harmon-Music Coordinator & Organist

Dr. Erynn Millard-Adult Choir Director

Jan Lundgren-Business Manager

Monica Gelinske-Administrative Assistant

Penny Andrist-Children's Ministry Coordinator

Kayla Bones-Youth & Young Adult Ministry Coordinator

Rick Fiebiger-Facilities Manager

Drew Brovold-Custodian

All staff emails are:

(first initial and last name of person)@firstpresfargo.org

Mindy Argall, Melissa Gadberry, Alexa Lajimodiere -
Nursery Attendants

FPC Officers

Session: Kim Carter, Tom Clusiau, Lisa Edison-Smith, Bruce Furness, Dick Henderson, Ryan Johnston, Roberta Mohagen, Joni Nudell (clerk), Elaine Rudd, Troy Schmidt, Mary Staahl, Scott Swanholm, Paula Thomas, and Kevin Tobosa.

Deacons: Kelly Brickman, Ed Deckard, Rick Herberg, Beatrice Janaka, Robin Kee, Sarah Lang, Bob Morton, Brian Peterson, Jean Pladson, Karen Rivers, Andrea Smith, Craig Tait, Josh Trumbo, and Jane Wolff (moderator).

Treasurer: Sherri Stern

Sunday, March 15

11:30 Pi(e) Day Social

12:00 Confirmation

4:00 *My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord:*
Benton Schmidt Organ Recital

6:30 Narcotics Anonymous

Monday, March 16

9:00 Mon. Morning Men's Grp. (Fargo Fryn' Pan)

6:30 Session

7:00 FMA Music Club St. Patrick's Day Program

Tuesday, March 17

8:30 Bulletin Articles Due

9:30 Naomi-Ruth Circle / Ester Circle (off site)

1:00 Staff Mtg. / Rachel Circle

6:30 Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday, March 18

5:30 St. Andrew's Brass / Genesis Ringers

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Pilgrimage Guides / Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 19

5:30 Compass Group #2

6:30 Compass Group #3

Friday, March 20

No Church Events

Saturday, March 21

10:00 Leah Circle

Sunday, March 22

9:15 Sunday School for All

10:30 Worship Service

12:00 Confirmation

6:30 Narcotics Anonymous

For Your Information

March 8 Worship Attendance: 235

Contributions Received: \$14,424.00



Church Information

Office Hours:

M-TH, 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

Find us on Facebook!