

# May 9, 2021: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

*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 Gather in Christ

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, help us to love others as Christ has loved us. Bring us into the spiritual joy of living our lives as your friend, and teach us to abide in your love, that we may show that love to the world. **Amen.**

### PRELUDE

*Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing*  
Sally Harmon, organ

arr. Hobby

### WELCOME & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing to our God a new song.

**God has done marvelous things!**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord!

**Break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

Let the sea roar and all that fills it.

**Let the world and its people sing together for joy!**

**Let us worship God!**

**HYMN 475:** *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

We have been called to follow Christ by obeying his one commandment:  
that we love one another as he has loved us.

Let us confess how we have fallen short of that love.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled with your joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Christ loves us so much that he laid down his life for us and calls us his friends.

If we can forgive our friends, how much more does Christ forgive us!

**RESPONSE 240: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to His Name.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:** Penny Andrist

**GIFT OF MUSIC**

*Sometimes*

Mancini

Shelley Zietz, soloist; Sally Harmon, piano

## The Word

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** Roberta Mohagen

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, in the reading of your Word, that we would hear what you have to say to us today.

May your Holy Spirit be poured out upon us; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**FIRST READING** Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm  
have gained him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy  
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

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

**SECOND READING** John 15:9-15 (Whirl p. 386)

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

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

**SERMON:** The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

**HYMN 482:** *Baptized in Water*

**A SERVICE OF BAPTISM** (please see insert)

**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**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **Bearing the Word into the World**

**HYMN 14:** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing*

arr. Young