

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Fargo, North Dakota

**4th Sunday after Pentecost    June 28, 2020**

*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.*

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## We Gather in Christ

### Prayer of the Day

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gives us birth by water and Holy Spirit, teach us how to live always in integrity of body, mind, and spirit, in obedience to your love, in the name of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory now and forever. Amen.

### Welcome and Concerns of the Church

Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

### \*Call to Worship

God calls us by name  
into the presence of holiness  
as God's holy people.  
We answer this call  
by the grace of God  
through the power of the Holy Spirit  
in the name of God's own Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Come, let us worship God!

### \*Hymn 48

*The God of Abraham Praise*

### \*Call to Confession

How costly is our broken relationship with God!  
The price of sin is a spiritless life,  
which is no life at all.  
Where are joy, peace, or lasting love to be found,  
except in the One who creates peace and joy,  
who sent Jesus Christ, the beloved Son, to save us from our sin?  
Let us confess, repent, and trust God to forgive us our sin.

### \*Prayer of Confession

**O God, on lonely Mount Moriah you put your servant Abraham to the test. We confess that we have failed much lesser tests of our faith. We have allowed sin to run our lives, to shape how we act toward others, and to kill our relationship with you. In your great mercy, forgive us. Change even our bodies from implements of destruction to instruments of your peace; for the sake of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

**\*Response**

*Gloria Patri*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Children's Message**

Penny Andrist

## **The Word**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson**

Psalm 13

To the leader. A Psalm of David.  
How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?  
How long must I bear pain in my soul,  
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?  
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!  
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,  
and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed';  
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.  
I will sing to the Lord,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

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

**Second Lesson**

Genesis 22:1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So, the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught

in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So, Abraham called that place ‘The Lord will provide’; as it is said to this day, ‘On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.’

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

**Sermon**

*The Binding of Isaac*

Rev. Dr. Paul H. Lang

## **Responding to the Word**

**\*Hymn 816**

*If Thou But Trust in God to Gide Thee*

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

*Taken from A Brief Statement of Faith*

**In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: Preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!” With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. 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.**

### **Offering**

**\*Response**

*Doxology*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

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

**\*Hymn 69**

*I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

**\*Charge & Benediction**

