

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Fargo, North Dakota

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 22, 2019 10:30 am



- We are grateful for your presence with us today!

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

Variations on "Take My Life"

arrs. Pethel/Held

Prayer of the Day

You hear the cries of your people for justice and mercy; you answer our prayers with the gift of your Son, who bears our burdens and sets us free. Speak your truth to us; purge and refine us; that we may love and serve you alone. Amen.

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

*Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

**Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake.**

Let us worship God!

*Hymn 2

Come, Thou Almighty King

*Call to Confession

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sin, God who is faithful, washes us clean.

With one heart and voice, let us pray.

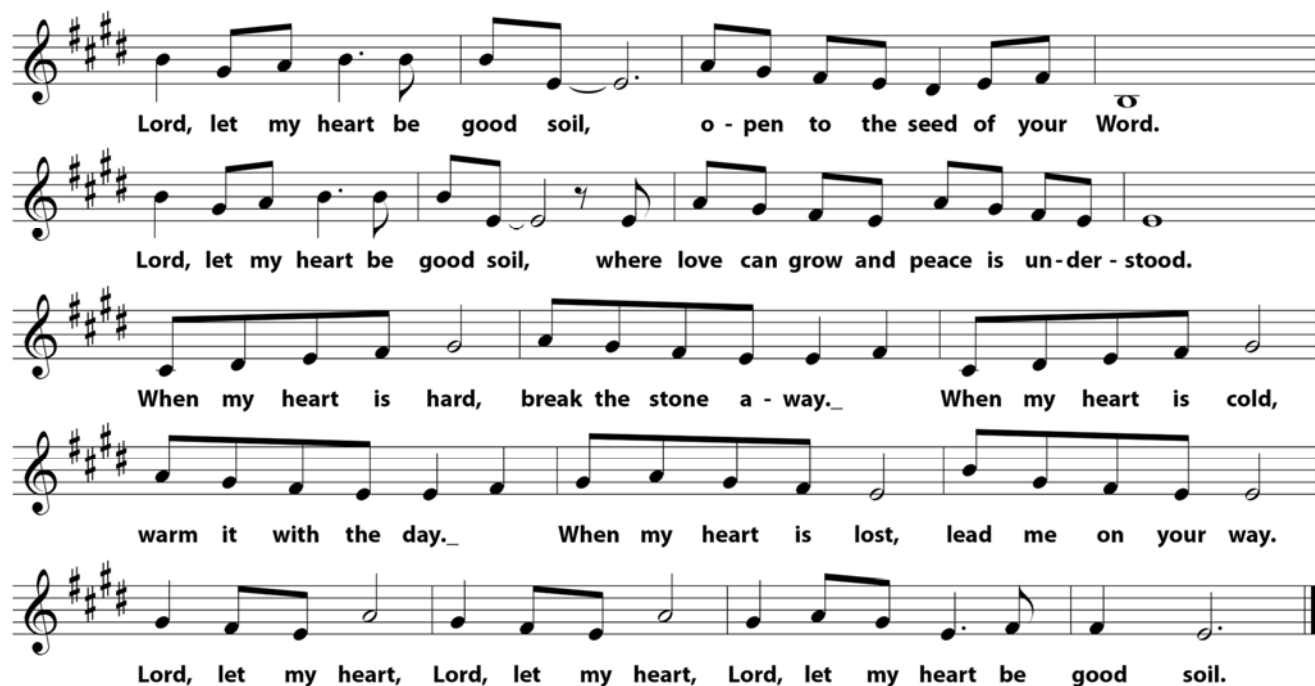
*Prayer of Confession

Creator of the universe, casualty of our sin, breath of life, we come trembling before you for we have hoarded and bartered what has never been ours in the hope of securing our future. We have yearned for wealth more than we have yearned for you. We have squandered your trust and grieved your heart with our betrayal. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us, and forgive our sins, for your name's sake. Amen.

*Assurance of God's Forgiveness

*Response

Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil



*Passing of the Peace

Gift of Music

There is a Balm in Gilead (see text at hymn #792)
Sanctuary Choir; Dr. Erynn Millard, director
James Howes, soloist

arr. Dawson

Children's Message

Penny Andrist

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Roberta Mohagen

First Lesson

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick.
Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land:
'Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?'
('Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?')
'The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.'
For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.
Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?
Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?
O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears,
so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

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

‘Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’

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

Sermon

Serving Two Masters

The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Lang

***Hymn 697**

Take My Life

***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 God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. 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.

Responding to the Word

Offering

Offertory

All Creatures of Our God and King
St. Andrew’s Brass; Jill Post, director

arr. Schuster

***Response**

Kindness Grows

Do your part. Share your heart. If you plant a seed of kind-ness it will
grow - and spread through-out the world for all to know. take a stand. Lend a
hand. When our work can change the world then it will show - that kind - ness grows. ____

***Prayer of Dedication**

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 694**

Great God of Every Blessing

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude

Great God of Every Blessing

arr. Hustad

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



Covenant Of Prayer: Bob Hamblet; Sarah; those who are homeless in our community; and our sister congregation, Chogoria.

Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer: Angelica Martin, KY; Daniel Martin, KS; George Ebert, Middle East; Will Van Osdel, CA; Tom Drayton, LA; 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.

Whoa Baby! Congratulations to Abi (Christensen) & Tyler Carlson upon the birth of their son, Thomas David Carlson, on September 11, 2019.

Nursery Attendant Needed: We are in need of a part-time nursery attendant. This is a paid position! Please see Penny if interested.

Youth News: Youth Group is in need of a middle school and a high school youth group leader for the 2019-2020 season. This commitment includes teaching, leading discussions, building relationships, and shepherding our students weekly on Wednesdays, from 7:00-8:00 pm, and for some special events. Please contact Kayla Bones at kbones@firstpresfargo.org if you are interested.

The Confirmation Class (12:00-1:30 pm, Sundays) is looking for folks to come and share how they live out their faith in their daily lives. Material should take 5-10 minutes to present...so not a large commitment at all! We are aiming to show our confirmands how others live out their faith. If you are interested in sharing, please contact Kayla.

A Request from Building & Grounds: Please consider *not* bringing beverages and food into the Sanctuary—to respect this sacred space, protect our new pew cushions, and avoid spills and cleanup. Coffee and snacks are available in the Gathering Space after the service. This request does *not* apply to bottles and Cheerios for young children. There is no need to reprimand anyone who is not aware of this preference.

Update Your Info! Did you move recently or get rid of a landline lately? Any updates to your personal or household info can be submitted to the office. Change of address, email, cell or landline numbers, or if you no longer use a landline or email, are all good reasons to contact the office!

Claim Your Items: There is a plethora of items on a table out in the West Foyer waiting to be claimed. Rally Day Tshirts, winter gear, books and more. **Please pick up your items today!** See someone who has an item on the table? Let them know they have items to claim! Thank you for your help.

Stewardship 2020: The Stewardship team is excited to share our vision for the upcoming Stewardship Campaign! **Over the next few weeks, we will have a Stewardship team member available for questions before and after the church service.** We are also trying to meet with each group/committee to share our message and talk about our updated Estimate of Giving Card and ACH Form. We hope that you thoughtfully consider participating in our Stewardship drive this year.

The Pilgrimage: *A Christian Prayer Toolbox*, today from 4:00-6:00 pm. This “taste and see” series on types of prayer includes a description of each method, a brief history of its use, and a guided experience using the prayer. Today’s class topic is “Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying with Icons”.

Contribution Statements: Contribution Statements through September 30 will be emailed out at the **beginning of October**. Before then, feel free to contact Jan or Monica in the office about your balance, or if you need a hard copy mailed out to you.

Mission Fair: On **October 20 during the Sunday School hour**, all are welcome to join the children and youth for a Mission Fair in the Social Hall. We’ll be making notes and cards for the pillow project and elderly, hygiene kits for YouthWorks, tie blankets for people and animals, and making toys and treats for shelter animals. We are in need of the following items: People who sew, travel sized toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, travel sized shampoo/conditioner, shaving cream, razors, adult sized socks, fleece – sizes 18” x 24” (for shelter animals) and/or appr. 50” x 70” (for shelter people), whole wheat flour, creamy peanut butter (no artificial sweeteners), and unsweetened apple sauce. **Please drop off your items to the office by October 13!**

3 Ways to Get the FPC-Fargo’s App on Your Mobile Device: 1) visit our website, firstpresfargo.org, and click on the link on the Home page. 2) go to <http://get.theapp.co/jb2k/> and it will allow you to select the download of the app for your mobile device. 3) text the code **FPFargo** to **206-859-9405**. The reply will include a direct link to our promotion page.

Eblasts & Emails: If you use email, please note that there are two kinds of emails that you might receive from the church. One is an “eblast” which is a generic email sent to **ALL** congregants and shows up as an email from FPC. These are used for mass messaging about upcoming events, schedule changes, and church needs. The second kind is a personal email from someone here at the church and will show up as an email from that person’s name. These are used for individual communication and to announce deaths.

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 10:15** 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

Sarah Tuiramye-Custodian

All staff emails are:

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

Alexa Lajimodiére & Kristina Stenseth-
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 (moderator), and Jane Wolff.

Treasurer: Sherri Stern

Sunday, September 22

12:00 Confirmation

4:00 Pilgrimage: Christian Prayer Toolbox

6:30 Narcotics Anonymous

Monday, September 23

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

12:00 Messenger Article Deadline

Tuesday, September 24

8:30 Bulletin Articles Deadline

1:00 Staff Mtg.

6:30 Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday, September 25

1:00 Library Cmt.

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

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, September 26

No Church Events

Friday, September 27

No Church Events

Saturday, September 28

2-4 Youth Volunteer @ CUH

Sunday, September 29

9:15 Sunday School for ALL

10:30 Worship Service

12:00 Confirmation

4:00 Pilgrimage: Christian Prayer Toolbox

6:30 Narcotics Anonymous

For Your Information

September 15 Worship Attendance: 201

Contributions Received: \$2,559.00



Church Information

Summer Office Hours:

M-TH, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Phone: 701-293-6311

www.firstpresfargo.org

Find us on Facebook!