

# Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Fargo, North Dakota

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time    November 17, 2019    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 service 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

**Prelude**

*We Praise You, O God*

arrs. Held/Willan

### Prayer of the Day

God, who labored creation into being, we give thanks for this day and the privilege to work in your world. We pray this day for those for whom this Lord's Day is not a day of rest but of toil. We pray this day for those who cannot afford to take Sabbath and for those who believe they cannot afford to take Sabbath. Grant us the strength to labor for what is right, just, and fair. Grant us the wisdom to speak out for those who are enslaved, oppressed, and exploited. Grant us the ability to break the chains of injustice and hear the voices of people long silenced. We pray this day for the privilege to work in your world; may we make it better. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Welcome and Concerns of the Church

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

### \*Call to Worship

Sing praises to the Lord, for God has done gloriously; let us sing God's praises throughout all the earth.

**Shout aloud and sing for joy, from the highest peaks to the deepest caverns.**

Shout aloud and sing for joy, from the tiniest creatures to the greatest herds.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, in the midst of our joys and our sorrows.

**Shout aloud and sing for joy, as we come to worship the God of all creation!**

## \*Hymn 612

*We Praise You, O God*

### \*Call to Confession

Just as the prophet Isaiah assured God's people so many years ago  
he assures us now that God is our salvation.  
It is because of that confidence, because of that promise,  
that we dare approach God with our confession.

### \*Prayer of Confession

God of peace, we confess we are a people of fear. We have let anxiety rule our days and worry our nights. We have been distracted by nerves and focused on tension. We confess we have ignored your command to not be afraid. Forgive us, O God. Calm our hearts, settle our stomachs, and renew in us the ability to find our comfort in you. Amen.

### \*Assurance of God's Forgiveness

### \*Response

*Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil*

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way.\_ When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.\_ When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

### \*Passing of the Peace

### Gift of Music

*Meditation*

Chaminade

Sarah Lang, violin; Sally Harmon, organ

### Children's Message

Penny Andrist

## The Word

### Prayer for Illumination

Jean Pladson

### First Lesson

Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.  
But be glad and rejoice for ever  
in what I am creating;

for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
 and its people as a delight.  
 I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
 and delight in my people;  
 no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
 or the cry of distress.  
 No more shall there be in it  
 an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
 for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
 and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.  
 They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
 they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
 They shall not build, and another inhabit;  
 they shall not plant, and another eat;  
 for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
 and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.  
 They shall not labor in vain,  
 or bear children for calamity;  
 for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—  
 and their descendants as well.  
 Before they call, I will answer,  
 while they are yet speaking, I will hear.  
 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
 the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
 but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
 They shall not hurt or destroy  
 on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

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

**Second Lesson** (see pg. 486 in the Whirl Story Bible)

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

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

**Sermon**

*Building the Kingdom*

The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Lang

**\*Hymn 767**

*Together We Serve*

**\*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

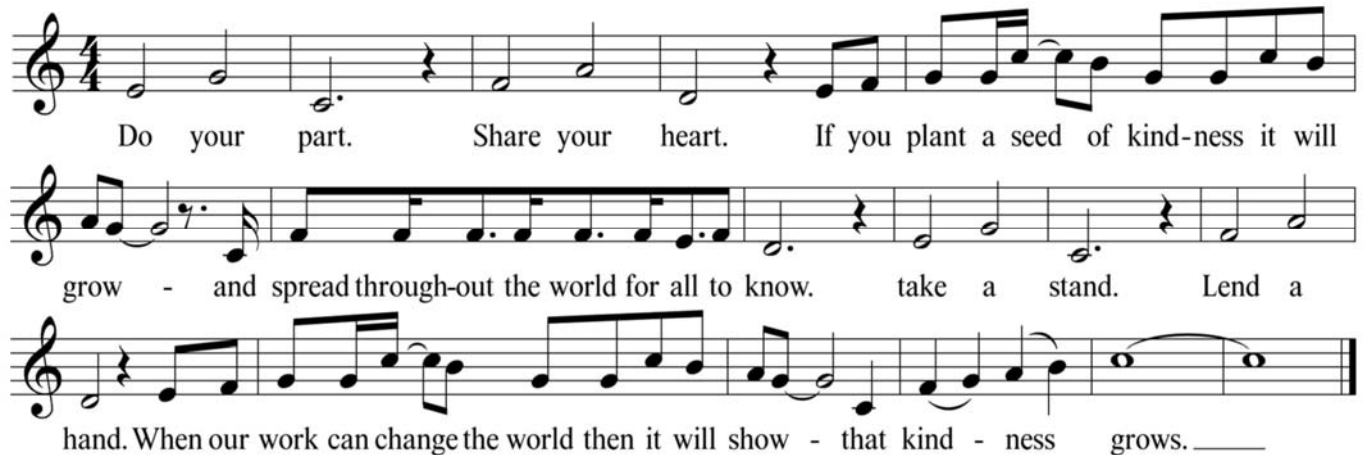
#### Offertory

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*  
Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director

arr. Dobrinski

#### \*Response

*Kindness Grows*



#### \*Prayer of Dedication

## Bearing the Word into the World

#### \*Hymn 761

*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

#### \*Charge & Benediction

#### Postlude

*We Praise You, O God*

arr. Young

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



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

**Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer:** Angelica Martin, KY; Daniel Martin, KS; 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.

**Thanksgiving Dinner:** Our Thanksgiving Day Dinner is back! To accomplish this, we need scores of volunteers! A three-ring binder has been placed at the Welcome Desk. You are encouraged to find tasks that work for your family's schedule and sign up early (**one person to a line, please**)! You might also consider buying "a feather" to help defray the cost of the turkey!

**Holy Buckets:** Especially during the winter months, we have guests at the church in need of hats, gloves, scarves and warm socks. During November, we will be collecting new and gently used winter gear, and new warm socks to keep in the office for those in need during the winter months. Place items in the green buckets in the Foyer.

**We NEED Youth Teachers:** Youth Group is in need of a middle school and a high school youth group leader to work with Kayla and team. This is a weekly commitment (7:00-8:00 pm Weds.) and includes teaching, leading discussions, building relationships, and shepherding our students. Please contact Kayla Bones at [kbones@firstpresfargo.org](mailto:kbones@firstpresfargo.org) if you are interested.

**Got a Little Time?** The office is looking for a Tuesday volunteer to cover the desk/phones weekly from 11:45 am-2:00 pm or earlier. Working in the office is a great way to give a little of your time while helping in a big way. If interested, contact Monica Gelinske, Administrative Assistant, at [mgelinske@firstpresfargo.org](mailto:mgelinske@firstpresfargo.org).

**Pillows! Pillows!** We continue to shower the YWCA shelter with new pillows that each person staying at the shelter gets to keep when they leave. May these women and children always have a safe and soft place to lay their heads at night. You may bring your pillows to the West Coat Room.

**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 B&G and Personnel:** 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.

**PW News:** The PW Circles will meet on **Tuesday, November 19** as follows: Naomi/Circle meets at 9:30 am, Esther Circle meets at 9:30 am at the Kenien Residence (2985 Peterson Pkwy, 58102), and Rachel Circle meets at 1:00 pm. All circles, except Esther, meet at the church. The focus will be Lesson 3 from *Carved in Stone*.

**A Survey of Contemplative and Mystic Spirituality:** Christian mystics search for a deeper understanding of the mystery of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ, not as much through reason and intellect as through relationship and imagination. All are welcome! **Tuesday, November 19, 6:00–8:00 pm:** *Teachings of Evelyn Underhill and Julian of Norwich*.

**Holiday Decorating & Lunch:** All members and friends are invited to remain **following worship on Sunday, November 24** to decorate many areas of the church for the holiday season. The work party will culminate with a soup and bread lunch provided by the Worship Committee. This is a particularly family-friendly event. All ages are welcome to participate!

**A Christmas Ring and Sing-along:** This FREE concert on **Monday, December 2 at 7:00 pm** is presented by the FM Area Music Club together with the RRV Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Seven area organists; the women's choir, The Noteables; and the community handbell choir, BELLissimo are part of this family-friendly event with narration from Pastor Mary. First Pres. is well-represented in the membership of these groups! Christmas goodies are served following the program.

**Pew Pride:** You are reminded to make sure your hymnals/Bibles are facing outward, friendship pads are stationed near the center aisle, and the **"Welcome the Wiggle/ABC's of Worship" inserts are showing out of the Bibles when you leave your pew**. A minute of your time will greatly help keep our sanctuary looking neat and organized.

**Library News:** Numerous books are missing from the Library. If you have church library books, please return them when you are finished reading them! The return box is inside the door to the Library on the lower level of the church.

**Separate Checks Please:** When making multiple payments/donations, please write separate checks for each. For example, when making your pledge payment and paying your Per Capita, write 2 checks instead of totaling the amounts and writing one check. Thank you.

**A Peek @ Next Week:** Genesis Ringers and the 7-12 Choir participate in worship.

**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,  
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, November 17**

12:00 Confirmation

6:30 Narcotics Anonymous

### **Monday, November 18**

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

6:30 Session

### **Tuesday, November 19**

8:30 Bulletin Articles Deadline

9:00 Naomi-Ruth Circle / Ester Circle (off site)

1:00 Staff Mtg. / Rachel Circle

6:00 Pilgrimage: Mystic Spirituality

6:30 Narcotics Anonymous

### **Wednesday, November 20**

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

6:15 Children & Youth Choirs

6:30 Westminster Ringers

7:00 Youth Group / Pilgrimage Guides

7:30 Sanctuary Choir

### **Thursday, November 21**

5:30 Compass Group #2

6:00 Compass Group #5

6:30 Compass Group #3

### **Friday, November 22**

*No Church Events*

### **Saturday, November 23**

*No Church Events*

### **Sunday, November 24**

9:15 Sunday School for ALL

10:30 Worship Service

11:30 Church Decorating & Soup Lunch

12:00 Confirmation

6:30 Compass Group #1 / Narcotics Anonymous

### **For Your Information**

November 10 Worship Attendance: 196

Contributions Received:\$31,240.00



### **Church Information**

Office Hours:

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

Phone: 701-293-6311

[www.firstpresfargo.org](http://www.firstpresfargo.org)

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