

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church Fargo, North Dakota

Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2019 10:30am



The Session and members of FPC, 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 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

Jubilate Deo
St. Andrew's Brass; Jill Post, director

Gabrielli

Prayer of the Day

Covenant God, you send us messengers to cleanse and refine us for your coming. Help us endure the mirror of the prophets' message, that we may see you when you suddenly appear among us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Welcome and Concerns of the Church

The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Lang

Moment for Mission

Festival of Trees

***Call to Worship**

The Lord is coming to his temple.
We watch and wait for his coming.
Prepare the way of the Lord!

***Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**

We light this candle as a symbol of the purity of heart only God can bring.
For he shall purify his people like gold and silver, until they shine forth his righteousness.
Come, Lord Jesus, come!

***Hymn 372**

O For a World

***Call to Confession**

Saints, let us trust in God's love for us and confess our sin,
confident in God's mercy.

***Prayer of Confession**

Refining God, you have sent us prophets and we have not listened. We have not always determined what is best or made way for your reign in our lives, our church, and our society. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

***Assurance of God's Forgiveness**

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

Gift of Music

"And the Glory of the Lord" from Messiah
Sanctuary Choir; Dr. Erynn Millard, director

G.F. Handel

Children's Time

Penny Andrist

***Response 91**

Come, Come, Emmanuel

The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Sue Van Osdel

First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.
May God bless the reading and hearing of this portion of the holy Word.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

‘Therefore, I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name’;

and again, he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

and again,

‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him’;

and again, Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.’

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of the Lord stands forever. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

That We Might Have Hope

The Rev. Mary Jo E. Holtey

***Hymn 77**

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

***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

People, Look East
St. Andrew’s Brass; Jill Post, director

arr. Jill Post

***Response 92**

While We Are Waiting

While we are wait - ing, come; _____ while we are wait - ing, come. _____

Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, while we are wait - ing, come. _____

***Prayer of Dedication**

Bearing the Word into the World

***Hymn 340**

This Is My Song

***Benediction**

Postlude

Wachet Auf

arrs. Manz

See text at hymn # 349

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



Remembering Our Soldiers In Prayer: Angelica Martin, KY; Daniel Martin, KS; Will Van Osdal, 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.

Attention Snow Birds: Please make sure you notify the office of your winter address along with the start and end date for using that address. We need all of that info to keep the system (and thus, the communication) in working order. Most items are mailed at special non-profit rates and those items are not forwarded even if you have a forward order at the post office. Your help keeps the lines of communication open and we thank you for helping us with this task.

Singing Opportunities: We invite **anyone who enjoys singing** to join the adult choir as we prepare to sing for both the Carols by Candlelight Service and the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service. If you have been unable to participate in the choir this fall, it is a wonderful short-term opportunity to step in. All are welcome to join us for December's **Wednesday evening rehearsals at 7:30 pm in the choir room.**

Giving Tree of Hope: Today is your last chance to buy tags, and there are 60 left!!! Gifts need to be returned by **December 15.** If you don't like to shop, no worries! The youth will do that for you. All you need to do is sponsor a tag for \$25. If you have any questions, head to the table in the Gathering Space.

ManUP: ManUP, a men's Bible study, continues its monthly meetings this Tuesday, **December 10 at 6:45 am**, in the Jennie Roberts Room. Coffee and pastries are served. Intended to help men understand what the Bible says in relation to what is expected of a Christian man, the study this year examines the apostle Peter's First Letter. A copy of the study guide can be obtained at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/firstpeter.pdf> or you can request a copy from Bruce Maylath at ring4linguist@yahoo.com. No advance preparation is required for each month's study.

PW News: On Wednesday, **December 11 at 10:00 am**, PW Bible Study Leaders meet with Pastor Mary. The focus will be on lesson 4. On Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 am, Leah Circle meets at the church.

A Peek @ Next Week: The Sanctuary Choir and 3-6 Choir participate in worship.

A Scandinavian Dinner of Swedish Meatballs, Bread Pudding and other surprises are planned for the next Heart-n-Soul Café on **Tuesday, December 10, serving from 5:00-6:30 pm.** All are welcome to share this meal with neighbors and friends. The meal is a pay as you can or pay it forward with a suggested \$7.00 donation. Opportunities to serve are also a form of giving back and please advise if you wish to donate your time. A sign-up form is on the Volunteer Bulletin Board or contact Sherri Stern 701-429-3522.

Calling All Bakers: On December 15, the youth will be holding the annual Cookie Walk! We are in need of some cookies or treat donations. Please **bring treats to the Jennie Roberts room by December 14 at noon** so the youth can set up the cookie walk!

Carols by Candlelight: December 15 at 6:30 pm. This year's theme is *Everlasting Light* and will feature all our church's vocal and instrumental ensembles plus congregational carol-singing in a celebration of word and seasonal music. Our Children's Sunday School Christmas Program will be part of this event. Christmas Goodies will be served following the service. Parents are encouraged to bring kids to a **dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 14 at 10:00 am.** It will be brief.

Attention All Holy Rollers! Join us as we use donated potatoes from the Thanksgiving dinner and turn them into lefse for the Youth Cookie Walk. Lefse is a traditional Norwegian soft flatbread made of potatoes - rolled out and cooked on a griddle. The dough will be ready to roll and grill on **Saturday, December 14, from 12:00-4:00 pm** in the Social Hall. No experience necessary! Please bring equipment if you have it. Questions? Call Connie Cleveland at 701-793-5825.

Family Christmas Party! Parents and children are invited to our annual Family Christmas Party on **December 15 during the Sunday School Hour.** Meet in the Social Hall for music, cookies, coffee and art projects. This year's theme is *The Everlasting Light*. We'll be celebrating the star over the stable messy-style, using paint, pastel chalks and perler beads - parental participation is necessary! Join us for this time of fellowship and connection for families of young children.

Congregational Meeting: There will be a meeting of the Congregation **following worship on December 15** for the purpose of: 1) Receiving the 2020 budget from Session; 2) Electing Officers for the class of 2022; 3) Approving new terms of call for Pastors Mary & Paul. Please plan to stay a few extra minutes to participate in this work of the church.

Christmas Eve: We will celebrate Christ's nativity together at 5:00 and 7:00 pm. **The 5:00 service** is a bright, family-friendly service with a special Christmas Story. The combined choirs, handbells and brass group all participate. **The 7:00 service** will be a quieter service. Perhaps just the thing you may need to calm your spirit and prepare for the arrival of the Prince of Peace. Plan to make one or both distinct worship experiences a part of your personal holiday experience.

Christmas Joy Offering: *Leadership: Past, Present, and Future.* One of the most powerful things that Christians claim is that God saw the great needs of the world and offered a perfect gift, a gift that brought God and humanity closer together. God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ, offered the power of being with us. We offer our own gifts during this Advent Season through the Christmas Joy Offering. Your donations will help fund the care of church leaders, past and present, who are in critical financial need, as well as prepare future leaders by giving to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please give generously. Envelopes may be found in the pew racks, the Narthex, and at the Info Kiosk in the Foyer. **Received on December 22.**

Festival of Trees: The Festival of Trees is a series of mission giving opportunities. Trees are set up in the Gathering Space throughout the Advent and Christmas Seasons. We have two new trees this year! *The Holy Grounds Tree* is collecting regular ground coffee and powdered creamers for area shelters and gathering places which serve free hot coffee during cold winter days to people experiencing homelessness. Our other new tree is for *The Mpangua School* in Chogoria, Kenya. Buy \$10 "blocks" to help us finish the final rooms of this Primary School. Returning trees this year include *The Food Tree*: nonperishable food and diapers for the Emergency Food Pantry; *The Mitten Tree*: hats, scarves, gloves and mittens for area children and youth; *Winter Gear*: new and gently used boots, snow pants and coats; *Sweet Dreams*: provides new mattresses, box springs and frame (single set \$236, queen set \$268) for moving from homelessness to housing; *The Sox Box* is for new, warm socks of all sizes. And, we continue to collect pillows for the YWCA shelter throughout the year!

2019 Year End Giving: Please have all contributions intended for the 2019 giving year turned in to the church office by Monday, January 6. Any contributions received after that date will be recorded on your 2020 giving record. If you would like to know the balance of your 2019 pledge, please call the church office.

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)

Sunday, December 8

- 12:00 Confirmation
- 2:00 FMSO Holiday Brass Concert
- 6:30 Narcotics Anonymous
- 7:00 FMYSO Holiday Concert

Monday, December 9

- 9:00 Mon. Morning Men's Group (Fargo Fryn' Pan)
- 5:30 EduCon Cmt.

Tuesday, December 10

- 6:45 ManUP
- 8:30 Bulletin Articles Deadline
- 1:00 Staff
- 5:00 Heart n Soul Community Café
- 6:00 Board of Deacons
- 6:30 Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesday, December 11

- 10:00 PW Bible Study Leaders
- 1:00 Library Cmt.
- 5:30 CbyC Orchestra / St. Andrew's Brass / *No Genesis Ringers*
- 6:15 Children & Youth Choirs
- 6:30 Compass Group #4 / Westminster Ringers
- 7:00 Youth Group Shopping
- 7:30 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 12

- 3:00 Cook & Serve Meal @ Churches United
- 6:00 Compass Group #5

Friday, December 13

No Church Events

Saturday, December 14

- 10:00 CbyC Rehearsal / Leah Circle
- 12:00 Lefse Making / Cookie Drop Off / Youth Cookie Decorating & Gift Wrapping

Sunday, December 15

- 9:00-12:30 Youth Cookie Walk
- 9:15 Children's Christmas Party / Pastor's Class
- 10:30 Worship Service
- 11:30 Congregational Meeting
- 12:00 Confirmation
- 6:30 Carols by Candlelight / Narcotics Anonymous

For Your Information

December 1 Worship Attendance: 55
Contributions Received:\$4,344.00