FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
preach, teach, heal, & serve

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.*

October 18, 2026

We Gather in Christ

PRELUDE Matthew Pechtl, organ

WELCOME Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

MOMENT OF SILENCE
God of abundance, quiet the voices of comparison within me. Help me receive my own life with gratitude and delight in the gifts and joys of others. Remind me that another person's flourishing does not diminish the love and purpose you have given me. Amen.

✧**CALL TO WORSHIP** Erin Torpey
If there is encouragement in Christ,
let us encourage one another.
If there is consolation from love,
let us share that love freely.
If there is compassion and sympathy,
let us look not only to ourselves, but to one another.
With the mind of Christ among us,
let us worship God together.

✧**HYMN 265** *Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun*

✧CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

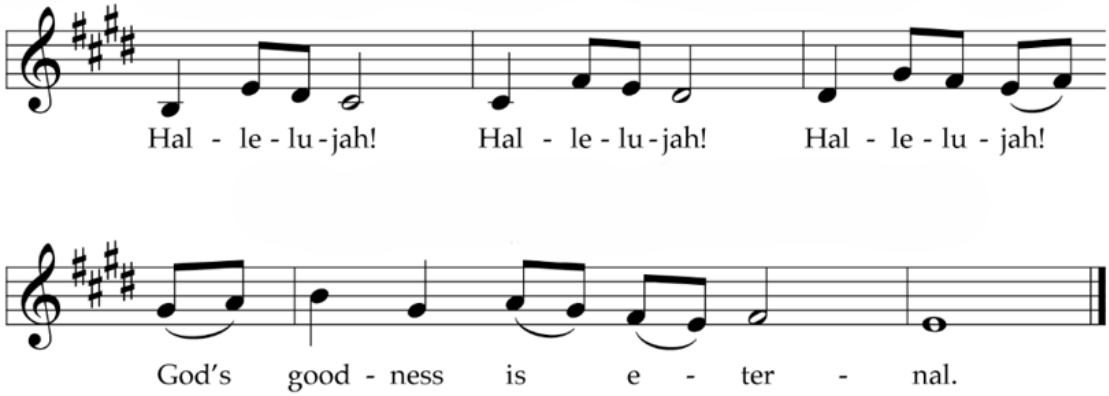
God of abundant grace, we confess that we compare ourselves with others, we notice what others have and forget the gifts already entrusted to us. We treat another's success as our loss and another's joy as evidence of what we lack. Forgive us for the ways comparison keeps us from gratitude and divides us from one another. Teach us the way of Christ, that we may rejoice in the gifts of others. Remind us to receive our own lives with gratitude and seek the good of our neighbors with generous hearts. In the silence, we confess the ways we have compared our lives with others and found ourselves wanting.

a moment of silence for personal confession

Search us, O God, and know our hearts.
Lead us in the way everlasting.

…Friends, believe in the good news of the gospel,
in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

✧RESPONSE *God's Goodness Is Eternal*



✧PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Word

SCRIPTURE *Philippians 2:1-11, pp. 1069*
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GIFT OF MUSIC *All for Thee* arr. Jack Schrader
(Take My Life and Let It Be)
Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director; Jessica Poyzer, piano

SERMON *Envy* Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

✧HYMN 372 *O for a World*

✧PROFESSION OF FAITH Confession of 1967, 9.21-9.22

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for men and women when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

Background: The Confession of 1967 was the first new confession of faith to be added to the body of creeds we profess as Presbyterians in over three centuries. It was developed around a single passage of Scripture from Second Corinthians: "In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself..." (5:19, NRSV). The confession addresses the church's role in the modern world, how the church ought to approach scripture, social problems, discrimination, nationalism, and class conflict. It calls upon Christians to be reconciled to God and to one another.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

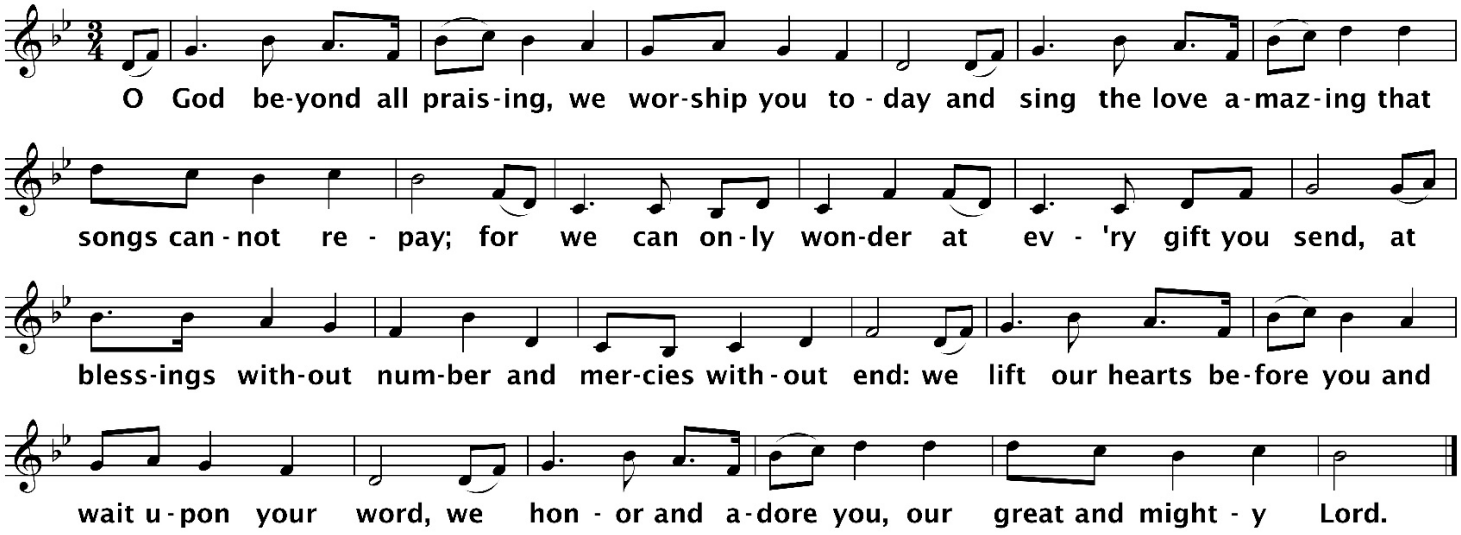
GIVE

MINUTE FOR STEWARDSHIP Carrie Dottey

Use the QR code to access the secure giving portal on our website!

OFFERTORY *October: Autumn Song ("Осенняя песнь")* Tchaikovsky
from The Season, Op. 37a, No. 10 arr. Temur Yakubov
2nd Avenue Strings; Dr. Eduard Teregulov, director

✧RESPONSE *O God Beyond All Praising*



✧PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bearing the Word into the World

✧**HYMN 263** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!*

✧**BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Quartet No. 14 in D minor, D. 810* F. Schubert
III. Scherzo
2nd Avenue Strings; Dr. Eduard Teregulov, director

Thank you to Tom Bigwood on livestream and soundboard, Erin Torpey for assisting in worship, and our Welcome Team: Tom Dawson, Virginia Stern, Val Anderson, Nate Boyer, Carrie Dottey and Dianne Connelly for taking such good care of us this morning. A special thank you to our musicians: Matthew Pechtl, the Sanctuary Choir directed by Bryan Poyzer, and the 2nd Avenue Strings directed by Dr. Eduard Teregulov.

*** The Second Avenue Strings is an exciting expansion of our Worship Arts Scholars Program, bringing together string performance majors from Concordia College under the direction of Dr. Eduard Teregulov, professor and String Department Coordinator. The ensemble features Taj Baang and Marian Jamora, violin; Payton Kasel, viola; and David Aguilera, cello.*