



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.

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.

PRELUDE

Matthew Pechtl, organ

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Sarah M. Bigwood

Jesus began to say, "This is but the beginning of the birth pangs."

We have seen the signs, nation rises against nation and there is hate amongst the people.

"But the one who endures to the end will be saved." This is the good news – **the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations.**

We will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory.

And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call.

And they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Let us worship the One who is coming in glory.

***CONFESSION AND PARDON**

Rev. Dan Billings

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ you serve us freely, but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command. In your mercy, forgive and cleanse us. Lead us once again to your table and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace.

Pastor: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

For Everyone Born
Westminster Ringers; Jill Post, director

arr. Sandra Eithun

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead, and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

The service of Tenebrae, a word meaning “shadows” originated during the early years of the church. The service depicts the events that led to the crucifixion. The extinguishing of the candles, resulting in an encroaching darkness, symbolizes the flight of the disciples and the approaching hour of crucifixion. The moment of total darkness recalls the hours Christ was in the tomb.

I. THE ANOINTING AT BETHANY

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:6-13

Jane Roggensack

MEDITATION

The Anointing at Bethany
by Malcolm Guite

Abi Carlson

HYMN 201

A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar (vs 1 & 4)

A prophet-woman broke a jar, by Love’s divine appointing.
With rare perfume she filled the room, presiding and anointing.
A prophet-woman broke a jar, the sneers of scorn defying.
With rare perfume she filled the room, preparing Christ for dying.

The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, by Love’s divine ordaining,
the friends we need, to serve and lead, their powers and gifts unchaining.
The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, from women, men, and children,
the friends we need, to serve and lead. Rejoice, and make them welcome!

II. THE PASSOVER MEAL

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:17-30

COMMUNION & OFFERING

When you are invited to do so, please come forward by the center aisle. You will be served the bread and cup. Leave your offering in the baskets after you’ve taken communion.

Tonight’s offering is for the Board of Deacons’ Emergency Relief Fund. This fund provides assistance for those who face special and unexpected needs.



ANTHEM*One Bread, One Body*

arr. Mark Hayes

Sanctuary Choir; Bryan Poyzer, director; Drea Greenawalt, piano

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Ruler of the Universe, we thank you for your mighty acts of deliverance, when you enable us to cross over from despair to hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from death to life. We thank you for the deep love of Jesus, which moved him to risk himself for the redemption of humanity; and for the grace we experience in receiving these symbols of the life he gave. Through lives given over in commitment to you, make us worthy of this great love. Amen.

III. THE GARDEN**SCRIPTURE***Matthew 26:30, 37-46***HYMN 220**

*Go To Dark Gethsemane (vs. 1, twice)
congregation may remain seated*

Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see;
watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

MEDITATION*Olive Grove*

Bruce Maylath

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.

IV. THE BETRAYAL AND ARREST**SCRIPTURE***Matthew 26:47-57*

Lisa McEvers

MEDITATION**HYMN 207***Sharing Paschal Bread and Wine (vs. 1-5)*

Sharing Paschal bread and wine as the daylight ebbs away,
friends at table join to dine. One of them will soon betray.
Shadows lengthen into night.

In a grove of olive trees underneath a darkening sky,
Jesus warns as he foresees: Peter also will deny.
Shadows lengthen into night.

In the garden, still and deep, those he asked to watch and pray,
heavy lidded, fall asleep, weary from the anxious day.
Shadows lengthen into night.

Deeper in the garden's chill, Jesus kneels to pray alone,
wrestling with God's holy will, crying out, "Let it be done!"
Shadows lengthen into night.

All too soon, the silence rends, with a crash of club and sword.
Judas, still received as "Friend," with a kiss betrays his Lord.
Shadows lengthen into night.

V. THE DENIAL

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 26:69-75

MEDITATION

HYMN 218

Ah, Holy Jesus

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!
Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

VI. THE SENTENCE

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 27:11-26

MEDITATION

His Blood His Body
by Christine Woolgar

VII. THE CRUCIFIXION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 27:38-44

Rev. Nancy Emerson

SPECIAL MUSIC

This Is The Night
Matthew Pechtl, violin

arr. Pechtl

VIII. THE CROSS

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 27:45-54

SPECIAL MUSIC

Were You There

Sam Johnson, soloist

Lights will come back on after a moment of silence. Please depart in silence.