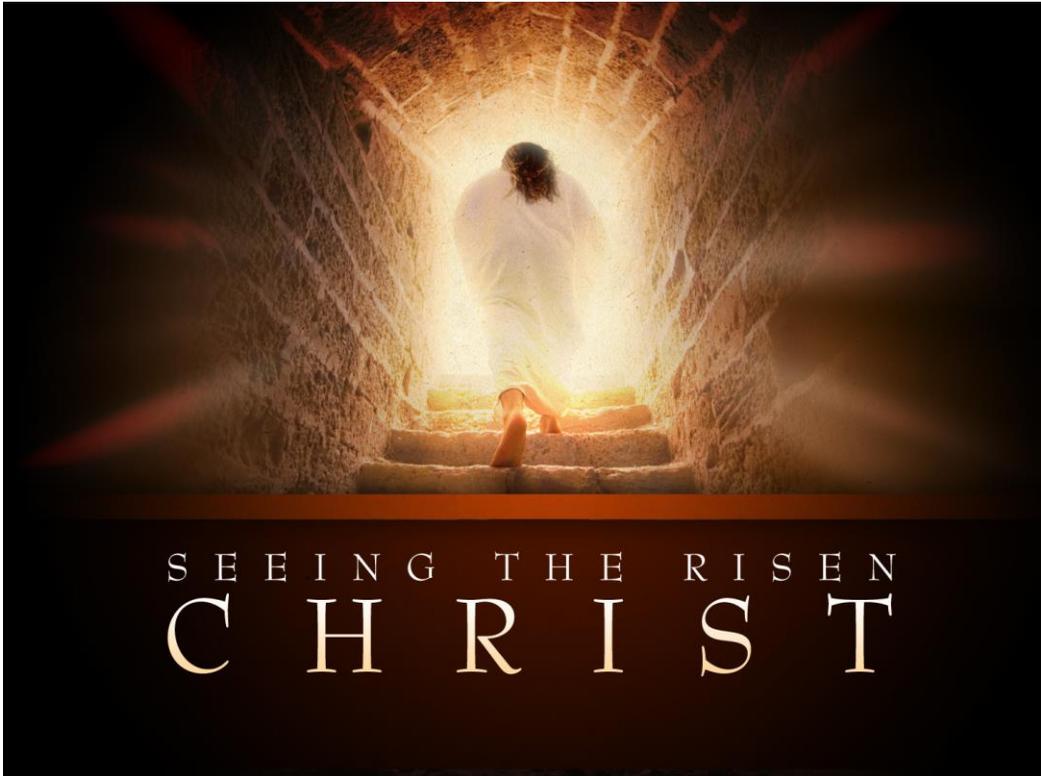


**Luke 24:13-35**  
**Burning Hearts**



**April 26, 2020**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**First Presbyterian Church**

1315 Central Avenue  
Great Falls, Montana 59401  
(406) 453-1411

Sunday Worship – 10:00 am

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

[secretary@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresgfmt.org)

 firstpresgfmt

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*May our hearts burn within us, Lord Jesus,  
as you open the Scriptures to us this day. (See Luke 24:32)*

**Welcome** to worship “in the courts of the house of the LORD. ... Praise the LORD”. (Psalm 116:19) With voices full of excitement, attitudes full of enthusiasm, and spirits full of joy let us actively give our worship to God.

**Last week**, how well did you live God’s message from John 20:19-31? When did God’s peace replace your doubt?

Be sure to check-in through **Social Media** or text message to let your family members, friends and followers know you are here to praise God. And like us on Facebook.

Please use the time before worship begins to prepare yourself for your **offering of worship** to God. Feel free to listen to music; read and meditate on the Scripture reading for today; or silently meditate on God’s grace, emptying your mind of all distractions.

Those who helped to prepare and lead worship this morning are Butch Steele, April Hansen, Joan Schmidt, Deb Skinner, Alex Rosenleaf, and John Ritchie.

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\* Please stand as able

*We are the Body of Christ  
Joyfully Worshiping God  
Compassionately Caring for One Another  
Humbly Serving God  
Continually Growing in God’s Word  
Actively Sharing the Good News of Christ*

***May our worship be pleasing to God!***

## GATHERING BEFORE GOD

Prelude

*Blessed Assurance*, Jazz Arr. Michael Hassell

Welcome

\*Call to Worship (Leader **People**)

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

We love the LORD, because the Lord has heard  
our voices and our supplications.

Because the Lord's ear is inclined to us,  
therefore we will call on the Lord as long as we live.

The snares of death encompassed us;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on us;  
we suffered distress and anguish.

Then we called on the name of the LORD:  
"O LORD, we pray, save our lives!"

**What shall we return to the LORD  
for all God's bounty to us?**

**We will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD,**

**We will pay our vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people.**

**Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of God's faithful ones.**

**O LORD, we are your servants;  
we are your servants, the children of your serving girls.  
You have loosed our bonds.**

**We will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

**We will pay our vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all God's people,  
in the courts of the house of the LORD,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

**Praise the LORD!**

\*Hymn of Praise #839

*Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine*

\*Call to Confession

From 1 Peter 1:17

God judges all people impartially according to their deeds.  
Trusting in God's love in Jesus Christ,  
let us confess our sins before God and one another.

\*Prayer of Confession

**Living Lord,**

**by the power of your Spirit,  
you are present among us.**

**Yet, like the first disciples,  
we fail to see you in our midst.**

**We do not realize you are walking beside us,  
for we are rushing to meet the demands of hectic schedules and overcrowded  
lives.**

**We do not notice you in everyday encounters,  
for we are distracted by daily labors  
and consumed by our own concerns.**

**We do not recognize you on our streets or at our tables,  
for our expectations are too limited to imagine all the ways you dwell among  
us.**

**Open our eyes to perceive you in our midst,  
so that – seeing you clearly – we might follow you faithfully...**

*(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)*

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

See Acts 2:39

God has promised salvation  
to us,  
to our children,  
and to all who are near and far.

**In the name of Jesus,  
we are forgiven.**

\*Congregational Response

*My Chains Are Gone* (chorus)

## **HEARING THE GOOD NEWS**

Message in Music

*You Are Mine*, David Haas

Scripture & Message

Luke 24:13-35  
Burning Hearts

## RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

\*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy  
Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the  
dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

\*Hymn of Response #252

*Day of Arising*

Moment for Ministry – Children & Youth Ministries Committee

Offering *Jesu, meine Freude* (Jesus, my joy, my heart's desire), J.S. Bach

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

## SENDING FOR SERVICE

\*Sending Hymn #702

*Christ Be Beside Me*

\*Charge

\*Blessing

\*Postlude

*Trumpet Tune in C Major*, David N. Johnson

***May our service be pleasing to God!***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget to check our Facebook page and your email for the **latest information** regarding the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church during this time of social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are not receiving emails, please send your current email address to the office, [secretary@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresgfmt.org). If there is anything the elders, deacons, or staff can do for you during this time, please let us know.

**Tithes and Offerings** may be mailed to the church office (we are receiving mail) or made online through our website.

**FISH** is still open daily 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. distributing food to those in need

Our times of worship are now **live-streamed** on our YouTube channel; search for “First Presbyterian Church Great Falls MT” on the YouTube website. Recording of previous live-streams will remain on our YouTube channel. Links to both live-streams and recordings will be posted to our Facebook page.

**Souler Energy**, our weekly Sunday Worship broadcast, can be viewed every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. on KFBB TV Channel 5 (cable channel 9). If you would like to support the continued broadcast of this program, note Souler Energy on your check and mail it to the church. Thank you!

**Winter Faith Institute Class** *Caring For Creation* continues to meet Sunday mornings @ 11:30 a.m. This class is taught by Jan Brown and will run through May 10.

**Reformation Overview Class** John Ritchie leads this six-week video-based class which is an introduction on a movement that decisively influenced the shape of our modern world and the Christian churches. This “Overview” will introduce some key moments, people, and issues of the Protestant Reformation. We meet every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday at 8:15 a.m. (a repeat of the Thursday class).

Our next class will introduce us to **John Hus**. He carried forth John Wycliffe’s groundbreaking work. His passionate calls for reform brought him before the Council of Constance. There he was betrayed by false accusations. He refused to capitulate and was condemned to burn at the stake. He died singing.

#### **COMING WORSHIP THEMES:**

##### **Next Sunday, May 3, 2020**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Communion  
John 10:1-10  
Jesus, the Good Shepherd

##### **May 10, 2020**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Acts 7:55-60  
The Stoning of Stephen

##### **May 17, 2020**

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Renewal of Baptismal Vows  
John 14:15-21  
The Peace of the Holy Spirit

##### **May 24, 2020**

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Acts 1:6-14  
Getting Ready to Act

**MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom*

Today, April 26	8:15 a.m.	Reformation Overview Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m.	Caring for Creation Class
Tuesday, April 28	6:30 p.m.	Deacons' Meeting
Wednesday, April 29	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:30 p.m.	Called Session Meeting
Thursday, April 30	10:00 a.m.	Reformation Overview Class
Next Sunday, May 3	8:15 a.m.	Reformation Overview Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m.	Caring for Creation Class

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom*

Tuesday, May 5.....	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, May 7 .....	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 9 .....	Presbyterian Women, 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 12.....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
	Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 14 .....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Sunday, May 17 .....	Children & Youth Ministries Committee, 11:45 a.m.
Tuesday, May 19.....	Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 26.....	Deacons' Meeting

The Officers and Staff of First Presbyterian Church welcome you to this time of worship and invite you to join us in ministry!

**Head of the Church**

Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior

**Session**

John Ritchie (Moderator)

Ginger Blevins  
Alissa Brown  
Jan Brown  
Sara Buley

Rees Davies  
Dave Dobbs  
Mary Fagenstrom  
Kathy Herman

Randy Houtz (Clerk)  
Scott Royce  
Dean Schamp

**Deacons**

Stuart Brown  
Bruce Buer (Moderator)  
Kitty Cornwell  
Shirley Davis

Tom Hazen  
Dave Herman  
Chris Pfost  
Deb Skinner

Robb Sparks  
Marla Wilckens

**Staff**

Rev. John E Ritchie, Pastor (906-322-9490)  
Alissa Brown, CE Director  
Craig Anton, Facilities Manager

Liza Nosich, Treasurer  
Joan Schmidt, Ministry of Music  
Faith Janes, Secretary

**A Modern-day Parable** In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables about the precious being lost and, at great lengths, found again. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like that. But most of us don't shepherd sheep and wouldn't fret over one lost coin. A child, on the other hand.... In fall 2019, as night fell in northern Minnesota, 6-year-old Ethan and his dog wandered off. Family and police grew frantic because the area consisted of fields, woods and swamps. Authorities requested assistance. The kingdom of heaven, Jesus might say, is like *600 volunteers* searching diligently in the dark for a child they didn't know. It's like Steve Fines who, though also a stranger to the boy, grabbed his company's pricy heat-seeking drone and worked the camera for hours, until it detected Ethan huddling with his dog, safe but cold. Yes, the kingdom of heaven — indeed God — is like people giving their all and refusing to quit until the lost one is found.