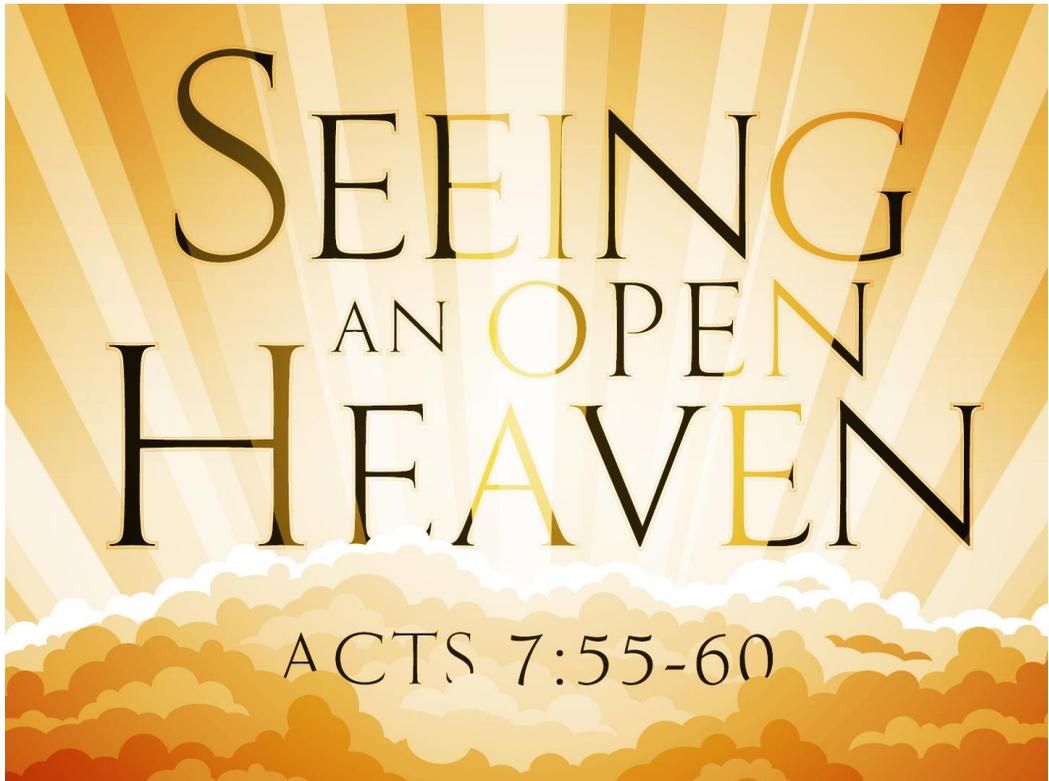


Acts 7:55-60
The Stoning of Stephen



May 10, 2020
5th Sunday of Easter
First Presbyterian Church

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

Sunday Worship – 10:00 am
www.firstpresgfmt.org

secretary@firstpresgfmt.org

 firstpresgfmt

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*God of nurturing love, thank you for the mother figures in my life.
May I, too, share your love with all.*

A warm **welcome** to all as we gather for worship. Greetings in the peace of Jesus. 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 10:1-10? When did you find yourself coming into the security of the peace of God? When you went out, how did you grow in your faith?

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, Dave Dobbs, Alex Rosenleaf, Johnny Ritchie, and John Ritchie.

All music copied and projected with permission, CCLI #2716126, OneLicense A-722348.

* 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

You Are My Hiding Place, Arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

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

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

In you, O LORD, we seek refuge;
do not let us ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver us.

Incline your ear to us;
rescue us speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for us,
a strong fortress to save us.

**You are indeed our rock and our fortress;
for your name's sake lead us and guide us,
take us out of the net that is hidden for us,
for you are our refuge.**

**Into your hand we commit our spirits;
you have redeemed us, O LORD, faithful God.**

Our times are in your hand;
deliver us from the hand of our enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servants;
save us in your steadfast love.

*Hymn of Praise #829

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

*Call to Confession

See 1 Peter 2:8, Psalm 31:1

Whoever believes in Jesus will not be put to shame.
Confident in this promise,
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

*Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)

**Holy God,
in baptism you claim us as beloved children
and set us apart as witnesses to your love.**

**At times we forget we bear the mark of your grace
and act as if you have no claim on our lives.**

**You call us to the risky work of justice and peace,
but we default to what is comfortable and safe.**

**You call us to ministries of generosity and compassion,
but we make little room in our busy lives for gestures of mercy beyond
moments of spontaneous kindness.**

**You offer us refuge and salvation,
yet we resort to violence as we seek our own security.**

**Wash us again with your grace and transform us by your Word,
that we might proclaim your good news in word and deed.**

(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)

*Assurance of Forgiveness (Leader **People**)

See 1 Peter 2:10

Sisters and brothers,
once we were not a people,
but now we are God's people;
once we had not received mercy,
but now we have received mercy.

In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven.

*Congregational Response

My Chains Are Gone (chorus)

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

He Looked Beyond My Fault, Dottie Rambo

Scripture & Message

Acts 7:55-60
The Stoning of Stephen

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (**Unison**)

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 #444

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Offering

Aria (from Twelfth Concerto Grosso), G.F. Handel

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (**Unison**) (Matthew 6:9-13, KJV, Traditional)

**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.

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Hymn #246

Christ Is Alive!

*Charge (Leader **People**)

*Blessing

*Postlude

Fanfare, Henry Purcell

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. 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.

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).

Beth Moore's **Bible Study for women** entitled "Chasing Vines" will meet on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. beginning May 13 for 6 weeks. Workbooks can be ordered online through Amazon. To sign up, or for more information, contact Alissa at 406-231-2348 or cedirector@firstpresgfmt.org.

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

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 today, 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).

In our next lesson we'll look at Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin, who led the Reformation in Switzerland. Both capable scholars, they had to interpret the newly recovered dimensions of the Gospel in the midst of a hurricane of change, social chaos and fierce opposition. From Zurich and Geneva their writings and developments would permeate the Church worldwide.

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 today, May 10.

Our next week to serve at **FISH** will be Monday June 1 – Friday June from 8:45 – 11:00 am. Tasks include stocking shelves, bagging food, and handing food to the clients. COVID-19 precautions are in place including social distancing and face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be available. If you are available to help any of those days, or have questions, please contact Dave Herman (847-313-5866, davebikeil@bresnan.net) before May 24.

Looking to connect with others from the congregation? **Join us** on Zoom Tuesdays at 12:30 pm and/or Thursdays at 6:30 pm for about 30 minutes of sharing whatever is on your mind or going on in your life. The same connection information for Sunday fellowship times will work for these. Let John know if you need the Zoom connection information. (906-322-9490, pastor@firstpresgfmt.org)

COMING WORSHIP THEMES

Next Sunday, May 17, 2020

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

May 24, 2020

7th Sunday of Easter
Acts 1:6-14
Getting Ready to Act

May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday
Pentecost Offering
Please Wear **Red**
Numbers 11:24-30
Acts 2:1-8, 12-14, 37-42
1 Corinthians 12:4-13
Responding to the Spirit

June 7, 2020

Trinity Sunday
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
The Trinity: Grace, Love, and Communion
Communion

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom

Today, May 10	8:15 a.m.	Reformation Overview Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Tuesday, May 12	11:30 a.m.	Caring for Creation Class
	4:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
Wednesday, May 13	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	2:00 p.m.	Chasing Vines Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Building Re-Opening Committee
Thursday, May 14	10:00 a.m.	Reformation Overview Class
	12:00 noon	Spiritual Life Committee
Next Sunday, May 17	8:15 a.m.	Reformation Overview Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:45 a.m.	Children & Youth Ministry Committee

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom

Tuesday, May 19.....Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 26.....Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 31 Pentecost – **Wear Red**

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	Rees Davies	Randy Houtz (Clerk)
Alissa Brown	Dave Dobbs	Scott Royce
Jan Brown	Mary Fagenstrom	Dean Schamp
Sara Buley	Kathy Herman	

Deacons

Stuart Brown	Tom Hazen	Robb Sparks
Bruce Buer (Moderator)	Dave Herman	Marla Wilckens
Kitty Cornwell	Chris Pfost	
Shirley Davis	Deb Skinner	

Staff

Rev. John E Ritchie, Pastor (906-322-9490)	Butch Steele, Worship Video Coordinator
Alissa Brown, CE Director	Alex Rosenleaf, Choir Director
Joan Schmidt, Ministry of Music	Kari Rosenleaf, Bell Choir Director
Craig Anton, Facilities Manager	Laura Jerome, Praise Band Director
Faith Janes, Secretary	Bayley Grove, Preschool
Liza Nosich, Treasurer	Brittany Collins, Nursery
Kristen McGuire, Peace Place Director	

The Birth of Mother's Day Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) loved her mother dearly. It was Miss Jarvis who first suggested a national day to honor all mothers. At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Anna gave a carnation, her mother's favorite flower, to each person in attendance. Within a few years, the idea to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was soon observed annually in many large cities of the United States. On May 9, 1914, by an act of congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." By then, it had become customary to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living. The custom continues to this day.