

**Matthew 6:13**

**Luke 11:4c**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

**Luke 14:25-33**

**ILLUMINATING LENT – THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Forward: Where God Leads Us – Discipleship**



**March 29, 2020**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**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

*Lord, where my spirit feels dry, breathe new life into me  
as you did to the bones in Ezekiel's vision.*

Jesus promised Martha and us: "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live." (John 11:25, NIV) Let us worship our Savior. **Welcome** to worship, one and all. 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 Matthew 6:11-12 and Luke 11:3-4b2? When did you trust God to provide for your daily physical and spiritual needs? For what did God forgive you and who did you forgive?

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 the music; read and meditate on the Scripture readings for today; or silently meditate on God's grace, emptying your mind of all distractions.

Leading worship today is Deb Skinner, Joan Schmidt, Alex Rosenleaf, John Ritchie, and Johnny Ritchie.

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*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

*Waft Her, Angels* (Aria from *Jephtha*), G.F. Handel

Welcome & Opportunities for Service

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

Psalm 121, adapted

Lift up your eyes to the hills—  
from where will our help come?

Our help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.

**The LORD will not let our feet be moved;  
the one who keeps us will not slumber.**

**The one who keeps the people of God  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The LORD is our keeper;  
the LORD is our shade.

The sun shall not strike us by day,  
nor the moon by night.

**The LORD will keep us from all evil;  
the LORD will keep our lives.**

**The LORD will keep  
our going out and our coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.**

\*Hymn of Praise #177

*You Are Mine*

\*Prayer of Confession

**We bring to you, O Lord,  
the wastelands of our lives.**

**Forgive us for when  
faith and hope are dust and ashes,  
and temptation overcomes us.**

**Forgive us for when  
the fruit of the Spirit is not evident in our actions,  
and the evil one controls us.**

**Forgive us for when  
love is not expressed in our words,  
and we put you to the test.**

**Help us  
to follow the way of Jesus...**

*(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)*

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

If Jesus dwells in us,  
the Spirit of God will be our life  
and the grace of God will be our righteousness.

And if the Holy Spirit dwells in us,  
then God, who raised Jesus from the dead,  
will also give life to our mortal bodies.

Friends, this is the good news of the gospel:

In Christ Jesus we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HEARING THE GOOD NEWS**

Message in Music

*Be Not Afraid*, Bob Dufford/Arr. Jack Schrader

Scripture & Message

Matthew 6:13

Luke 11:4c

Matthew 3:1-12

Luke 14:25-33

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**RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS**

\*Affirmation of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, 4.127, adapted

What is the sixth petition of the Lord’s Prayer?

**“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” That is: since we are so weak that we cannot stand by ourselves for one moment, and besides, since our sworn enemies, the devil, the world, and our own sin, ceaselessly assail us, be pleased to preserve and strengthen us through the power of your Holy Spirit so that we may stand firm against them, and not be defeated in this spiritual warfare, until at last we obtain complete victory.**

\*Hymn of Response #718

*Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said*

Moment for Mission – One Great Hour of Sharing

Musical Offering

*Ballade in B Major*, Johannes Brahms (Op. 10, No. 4)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, NRSV)

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
but rescue us from the evil one.**

**Amen.**

### **SENDING FOR SERVICE**

\*Sending Hymn #43

*On Eagle's Wings*

\*Charge

\*Blessing

\*Congregational Response #765

*Song of Hope*

\*Postlude

*Fantasy in C Major, J.S. Bach*

***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.

Our times of worship are now **live-streamed** on our Facebook page and on our YouTube channel. Both can be found by searching for "First Presbyterian Church Great Falls MT" on each site. Each recording remains on each site to be viewed at other times if you miss the live-stream.

**Communion** will still be celebrated next Sunday, Palm Sunday, April 5; on Maundy Thursday, April 9; and on Easter Sunday, April 12. You will need to supply your own bread and juice.

**Tithes and Offerings** may be mailed to the church office (we are receiving mail) or through our website. If you are giving to One Great Hour of Sharing please be sure to indicate that on your check, or communicate with Liza if giving online.

**Please note the staff's new email addresses:**

John Ritchie – [pastor@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:pastor@firstpresgfmt.org)  
Alissa Brown – [cedirector@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:cedirector@firstpresgfmt.org)  
Faith Janes – [secretary@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresgfmt.org)  
Joan Schmidt – [musicdirector@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:musicdirector@firstpresgfmt.org)  
Craig Anton – [manager@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:manager@firstpresgfmt.org)  
Liza Nosich – [treasurer@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:treasurer@firstpresgfmt.org)

**FISH** is still open daily 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. distributing food to those in need. The Loaves & Fishes Dinner scheduled for April 24 has been canceled because of the coronavirus. It is planned to still have the dinner later this year when the crisis is over.

**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 Classes** Both classes will continue this week via the online meeting platform Zoom. Those who have been attending will be contacted with connection information. If you would like to join either class, please let the office or John know.

*Illuminating Lent* – Sunday mornings @ 8:15 a.m. and Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m. This class is taught by Pastor John and will run through April 6.

*Caring For Creation* – Sunday mornings @ 11:30 a.m. This class is taught by Jan Brown and will run through May 10 (with no class on April 12).

**COMING WORSHIP THEMES:**

**April 5, 2020** – Palm Sunday – Communion – Psalm 148; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Revelation 21:1-7 – ILLUMINATING LENT – THE LORD’S PRAYER Onward: What God Will Do – Resurrection Hope

**April 9, 2020** – Maundy Thursday – Communion – Live-Streamed

**April 10, 2020** – Good Friday – Community Worship at 12:00 noon Live-streamed – Evening worship with Our Savior’s Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. – Live-streamed

**April 12, 2020** – Easter Sunday – Communion – One Great Hour of Sharing – Matthew 28:1-10 – Not Here: Try Everywhere Else – Live Streamed

**April 19, 2020** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – John 20:19-31 – Let’s Be Rational About This – Live Streamed

**April 26, 2020** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Luke 24:13-35 – Burning Hearts – Live Streamed

**MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom*

Today, March 29	8:15 a.m.	Illuminating Lent Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Caring for Creation Class
Thursday, April 1	5:30 p.m.	Worship Committee
Next Sunday, April 5	8:15 a.m.	Illuminating Lent Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Caring for Creation Class

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom*

Tuesday, April 7.....	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, April 9 .....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
	Maundy Thursday Worship, 6:30 p.m.
Friday, April 10.....	Good Friday Community Worship, 12:00 noon
	Good Friday Worship with Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 14.....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
	Property Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 19 .....	Children & Youth Ministry Committee, 11:45 a.m.

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)

Liza Nosich, Treasurer

Alissa Brown, CE Director

Joan Schmidt, Ministry of Music

Craig Anton, Facilities Manager

Faith Janes, Secretary

**A Lenten History Lesson** Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning “March”) and *lencten* (meaning “spring”). The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started observing Lent, and a 10th-century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and “the Lenten fast” to the pre-Easter period. Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus’ time in the wilderness, when he was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren’t counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they’re considered “mini-Easters.”