

**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 5, 2020**  
**Palm Sunday**  
**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](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresgfmt)

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*O God, increase our faith as we journey through this Holy Week and its roller coaster of emotions. We pray in Jesus' name.*

**Hosanna!** Blessed is the Lord Jesus! Let us worship together this Palm [Passion] Sunday. 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 6:13 and Luke 11:4c? When did you feel tempted by the evil one? How did God test you?

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.

May you be renewed and strengthened this morning through our celebration of **Communion**. The Presbyterian Church (USA) has an open communion table. We welcome all who are Baptized "in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" by any Christian denomination to join us in communing with our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. Be sure to have something ready for the bread and juice at the appropriate time. You will be instructed when to eat and drink.

Leading worship today is Chris Pfost, Joan Schmidt, Alex Rosenleaf, and John 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

*The Palms*, Jean Baptiste Faure

Welcome & Opportunities for Service

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

Psalm 148, adapted

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

praise the Lord in the heights!

Praise the Lord, all God's angels;

praise the Lord, all heavenly host!

**Praise the Lord, sun and moon;**

**praise the Lord, all you shining stars!**

**Praise the Lord, you highest heavens,**

**and you waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for God commanded and they were created.

God established them forever and ever;

the Lord fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**Praise the LORD from the earth,**

**you sea monsters and all deeps,**

**fire and hail, snow and frost,**

**stormy wind fulfilling God's command!**

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

**Kings of the earth and all peoples,**

**princes and all rulers of the earth!**

**Young men and women alike,**

**old and young together!**

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for God's name alone is exalted;

God's glory is above earth and heaven.

The Lord has raised up a horn for the people of God,

praise for all God's faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to the Lord.

Praise the LORD!

\*Hymn of Praise #679

*Let the Whole Creation Cry*

\*Prayer of Confession

**Eternal God,**

**we confess that we have failed to seek your will.**

**You have come to live among us,**

**but we rejected and crucified your love.**

**You promise us that even death will pass away**

**but we cling to sin and its temptations.**

**You call us to rise up in Jesus,**

**yet we remain in the dust of death.**

**You have prepared a new creation for us**

**but we are unprepared for its coming.**

**Forgive us,**

**God of grace...**

*(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)*

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

From 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?

The sting of death is sin—

**but God has swallowed up death forever,**

**and sin has no more power over us.**

In Jesus, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

Therefore, beloved, be steadfast, be faithful, excelling in the work of the Lord; in the Lord, your labor will not be in vain.

**Amen.**

## **HEARING THE GOOD NEWS**

Message in Music

*The Holy City*, Stephen Adams

Scripture & Message

1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Revelation 21:1-7

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

**Onward: What God Will Do – Resurrection Hope**



\*Charge

\*Blessing

\*Congregational Response #765

*Song of Hope*

\*Postlude

*Arioso (from Concerto in f minor), 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 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.

**Communion** will 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 in the comment section if giving online.

**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 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 (with no class on April 12).

**COMING WORSHIP THEMES:**

**April 9, 2020**

Maundy Thursday

Worship with Communion at 6:30 p.m.

**April 10, 2020**

Good Friday

Community Worship at 12:00 noon

Evening worship with Our Savior's

Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m.

**Next Sunday, April 12, 2020**

Easter Sunday

Communion

One Great Hour of Sharing

Matthew 28:1-10

Not Here: Try Everywhere Else

**April 19, 2020**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

Let's Be Rational About This

**April 26, 2020**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35

Burning Hearts

**April 26, 2020**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

John 10:1-10

Jesus, the Good Shepherd

**MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom*

Today, April 5	8:15 a.m.	Illuminating Lent Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Caring for Creation Class
Tuesday, April 7	12:00 noon	Souler Energy Committee
Wednesday, April 8	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
Thursday, April 9	12:00 noon	Spiritual Life Committee
	6:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion
Friday, April 10	12:00 noon	Good Friday Community Worship
	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Worship with Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Next Sunday, April 12	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom*

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.
Tuesday, April 21.....	Session Meeting, 6:30 p.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

**Remembering Dietrich Bonhoeffer** The Christian Church commemorates Dietrich Bonhoeffer — pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi spy — on April 9, the anniversary of his 1945 martyrdom. Among his much-loved writings are nuggets of wisdom such as these:

“Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are.” (*The Cost of Discipleship*)

“In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others.” (*Letters and Papers from Prison*)

“The table fellowship of Christians implies obligation. It is our daily bread that we eat, not my own. We share our bread. Thus we are firmly bound to one another not only in the Spirit but in our whole physical being. The one bread that is given to our fellowship links us together in a firm covenant.” (*Life Together*)