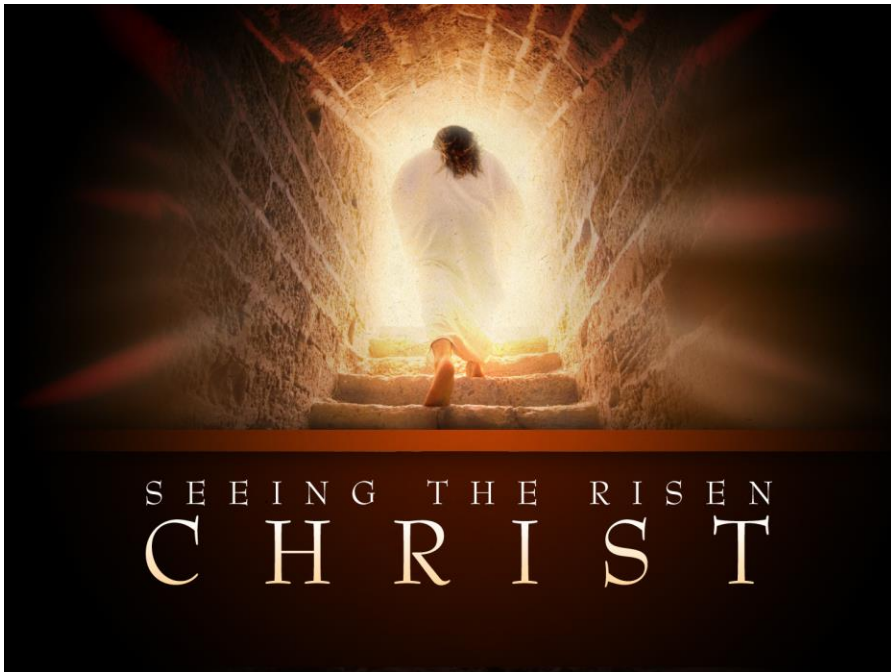


**Matthew 28:1-10**  
**Not Here – Try Everywhere Else**



**April 12, 2020**  
**Easter 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

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*May we recognize you, Risen Lord, when you call us by name as you did Mary,  
and may we be eager to tell others the good news.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Welcome**, as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection and our own resulting new life! 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 Psalm 148, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, and Revelation 21:1-7? How did you help the creation praise the name of the Lord and God's kingdom? When did you show the power of God in your daily actions of discipleship? Where did you sense the glory of God surrounding 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 music; read and meditate on the Scripture reading 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.

Those who helped to prepare and lead worship this morning are Rees Davies, April Hansen, Butch Steele, Randy Houtz, Joan Schmidt, Alex Rosenleaf, Tom Hazen, John Ritchie and Caroline Houtz.

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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

*Easter Fanfare (Were You There)*, Arr. Joan Brandvold Schmidt  
#232 – *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

Welcome

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

Do not be afraid;

I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

He is not here. He has been raised!

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen!**

Brothers and sisters, behold the victory of our God over sin and evil – the empty tomb!

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen!**

Jesus has conquered death and the grave.

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! The Lord is risen!**

Sin and evil shall reign no more.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen!

**The Lord is risen! Alleluia!**

Come, with amazement and great joy.

Come, with wonder and praise.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen!

**The Lord is risen! Alleluia!**

Let our rooms vibrate with joy.

Alleluia! The Lord is risen!

**The Lord is risen! Alleluia!**

Let us shout the good news!

The Lord is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed!**

### \*Hymn of Praise

*This Easter Celebration*, Words by Caroline Winfrey Gillette  
(used by permission)

### \*Call to Confession

From Psalm 118:19

God has opened to us the gates of righteousness

**that we may enter through them.**

Confident in God's love, let us confess our sin.

\*Prayer of Confession

**Living God,**

**we confess that we look for the living among the dead.**

**You send Jesus on ahead of us,**

**but we stay behind,**

**studying the tomb.**

**You reveal to us your heavenly glory,**

**but we set our minds on earthly things.**

**You send us forth to share the gospel,**

**but many times our words often tear down instead of buildup,**

**our deeds are often self-motivated instead of servant-motivated,**

**and fear and pride limit us.**

**Forgive us;**

**and through the Risen Lord Jesus,**

**give us new life...**

*(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)*

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

From 1 Peter 2:25

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray,

but now we have returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls.

In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Congregational Response

*My Chains Are Gone* (chorus)

### **HEARING THE GOOD NEWS**

Message in Music

*Because He Lives*, William & Gloria Gaither

Scripture & Message

Matthew 28:1-10

Not Here – Try Everywhere Else

## RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

\*Affirmation of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, 4.045

How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?

**First, by his resurrection he has overcome death,  
so that he might make us share in the righteousness  
he obtained for us by his death.**

**Second, by his power we too  
are already raised to a new life.**

**Third, Christ's resurrection  
is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.**

\*Hymn of Response #246

*Christ Is Alive!*

Moment for Mission – One Great Hour of Sharing

Offering *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*, Beethoven/Arr. Edward Hodges

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and *The Lord's Prayer*

Malotte

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Communion of God's People

Prayer after Communion

**Thank you, O God, for giving us communion with our risen and glorious Lord.  
Now send us out to be a sign of the new life that has come into the world;  
through Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

## SENDING FOR SERVICE

\*Sending Hymn #238

*Thine Is the Glory*

\*Charge

\*Blessing

\*Postlude

*Thine Is the Glory*, G.F. Handel/Arr. Edmund Budry

***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.

**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).

**Reformation Overview Class** John Ritchie will lead 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 will be introduced to the reformers John Wycliffe, John Hus, Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin, The Anabaptists, and William Tyndale. We'll meet every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday at 8:15 a.m. (a repeat of the Thursday class) beginning April 23 and ending June 7. To sign up contact Jan Brown, moderator of our Spiritual Life Committee, [janbrown424@gmail.com](mailto:janbrown424@gmail.com), 406-315-2918.

**COMING WORSHIP THEMES:**

**Next Sunday, 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

**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 GOD BLESS THIS WEEK**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom*

Today, April 12	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion
Tuesday, April 14	4:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
	5:30 p.m.	Property Committee
Wednesday, April 15	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
Saturday, April 18	9:30 a.m.	Presbyterian Women
Next Sunday, April 19	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:30 a.m.	Caring for Creation Class
	11:45 a.m.	Children & Youth Ministry Committee

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom*

Tuesday, April 21.....	Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 28.....	Deacons' Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 5.....	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, May 7.....	Worship Committee, 5:30 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

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

**Christ Is Alive** In 1968, Martin Luther King was assassinated one week before Good Friday. The loss of his prophetic voice was felt around the world. At that difficult time, the Rev. Brian Wren of the United Kingdom felt a need to affirm the presence of a wounded, risen Christ in the midst of all who suffer loss. Rev. Wren's words from that era still carry a message of Easter hope that resonates through troubled times: *Christ Is Alive!*