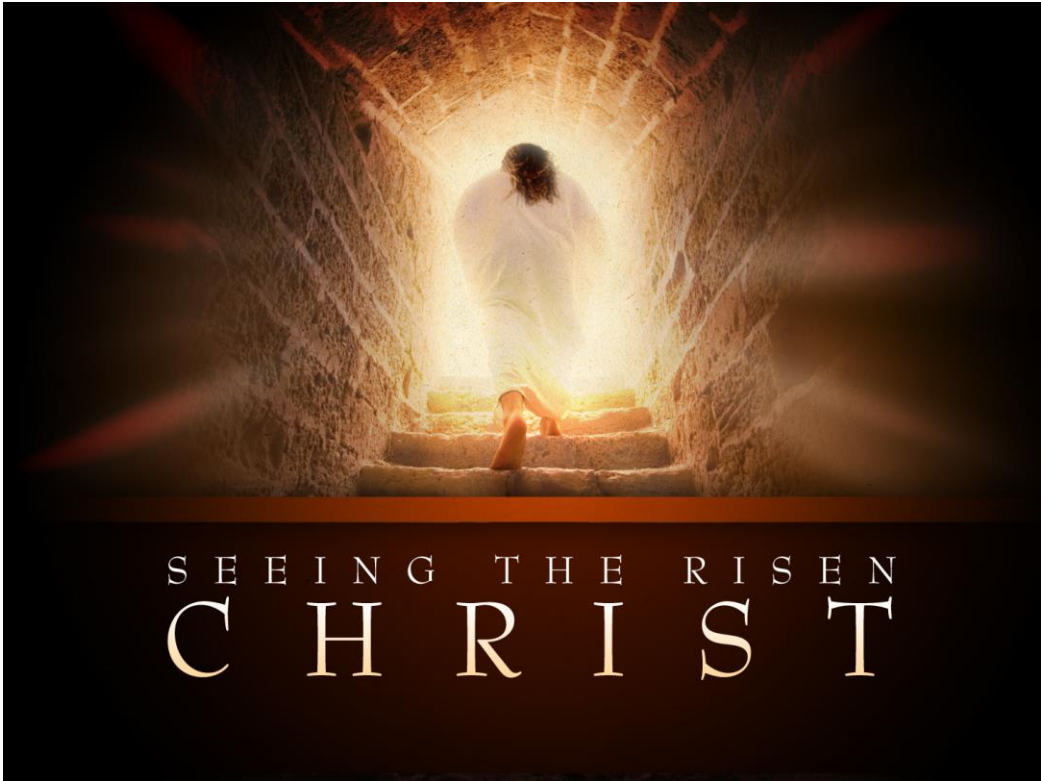


**John 20:19-31**  
**Let's Be Rational About This**




**April 19, 2020**  
**2<sup>nd</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**

*Through Thomas the disciple,  
we learn that questions and even doubt  
can be stepping-stones to deeper faith.*

The risen Christ appears among us – despite our locked hearts, our fears, our attempts to hide – and says, “Peace.” With that same word of peace, **welcome** to worship. 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 28:1-10? Who did you tell that Jesus is not in the grave, that the tomb is empty, and that Jesus has been raised by the power of God? How did you then serve others?

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, Laura Jerome, 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

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*, Arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome

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

Psalm 16

Protect us, O God, for in you we take refuge.  
We say to the LORD, "You are our Lord;  
we have no good apart from you."

**As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,  
in whom is all our delight.**

**Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;  
their drink offerings of blood we will not pour out  
or take their names upon our lips.**

The LORD is our chosen portion and our cup;  
you hold our lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for us in pleasant places;  
we have a goodly heritage.

**We bless the LORD who gives us counsel;  
in the night also our hearts instruct us.**

**We keep the LORD always before us;  
because the Lord is at our right hand, we shall not be moved.**

Therefore our hearts are glad, and our souls rejoice;  
our bodies also rest secure.

For you do not give us up to Sheol,  
or let your faithful ones see the Pit.

**You show us the path of life.  
In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

\*Hymn of Praise #157

*I Danced in the Morning*

\*Call to Confession

When we keep our fears and faults locked up inside us,  
it is hard to be healed and receive new life.

So let us open ourselves to God in confession,  
trusting the Lord's desire to give us peace.

\*Prayer of Confession

**God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts,  
when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world,  
forgive us and help us to find our voice.**

**When we are afraid to forgive and to love again,  
forgive us and give us the power to forgive.**

**When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority,  
join us with the weak to make us all strong.**

**When we are confined by our hurts,  
touch us with your wounded hands and set us free.**

**When we are locked behind our doubts and fears,  
pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace...**

*(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)*

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**By God's great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for us, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

In this rejoice, even if now for a little while we have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of our faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Christ Jesus is revealed.

**Although we have not seen Jesus, we love Jesus; and even though we do not see Jesus now, we believe in Jesus and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for we are receiving the outcome of our faith, the salvation of our souls.**

\*Congregational Response

*My Chains Are Gone* (chorus)

**HEARING THE GOOD NEWS**

Message in Music

*You Raise Me Up*, Rolf Lovland/Brendan Graham

Scripture & Message

John 20:19-31

Let's Be Rational About This

## 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

*How Can I Keep from Singing Your Name*

Moment for Mission – PC(USA) Mission Partners

Offering #240

*Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks*

Prayers of the People and *The Lord's Prayer*

James Kriewald

## SENDING FOR SERVICE

\*Sending Hymn #300

*They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

\*Charge

\*Blessing

\*Postlude

*La Rejouissance* (from *Music for the Royal Fireworks*), G.F. Handel

***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 made online 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.

**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), 406-788-9495.

Our first class will introduce us to **John Wycliffe**. Called the “Morningstar,” this courageous forerunner paved the way for momentous changes to come. His teachings challenged the authorities, but they exiled him, and his exile provided the opportunity for his monumental achievement that has benefitted us all—the Bible in English.

**COMING WORSHIP THEMES:**

**Next Sunday, 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 17, 2020**

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

**MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom*

Today, April 19	10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m.	Caring for Creation Class
	1:30 p.m.	Children & Youth Ministry Committee
Tuesday, April 21	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Property Committee
Wednesday, April 22	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
Thursday, April 23	10:00 a.m.	Reformation Overview Class
Next Sunday, April 26	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, 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
Sunday, May 17 .....	Children & Youth Ministries Committee, 11:45 a.m.
Tuesday, May 19.....	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

**All Things In Common** Just as the bread is made out of many grains ground and mixed together, and out of the bodies of many grains there comes the body of one bread, in which each grain loses its form and body and takes upon itself the common body of the bread; and just as the drops of wine, in losing their own form, become the body of one common wine and drink — so it is and should be with us. ... Through the interchange of [Christ's] blessings and our misfortunes, we become one loaf, one bread, one body, one drink, and have all things in common.

—Martin Luther, *Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament*