

**Acts 1:6-14**  
**Getting Ready to Act**



**May 24, 2020**  
**7<sup>th</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

*Dear Jesus, open our minds to understand the Scriptures proclaimed today. (Luke 24:45)  
Amen.*

Jesus prayed 2,000 years ago that all his followers would be one. Whatever our differences, we are united in Jesus. Let us **worship** God together. 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 14:15-31? When the Peace of Christ empower you to survive? How did the Peace of the Holy Spirit assure you of God's presence? Where did the Peace of God move you into action for God's mission?

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, Kari Rosenleaf, Joan Schmidt, Dave Dobbs, Alex Rosenleaf, Johnny Ritchie, 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

*Because He Lives*, Wm. And Gloria Gaither

Welcome

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

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Let God rise up, let God's enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate God flee before God.

As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;  
as wax melts before the fire,  
let the wicked perish before God.

But let the righteous be joyful;  
let them exult before God;  
let them be jubilant with joy.

**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name;  
lift up a song to the Lord upon the clouds—  
God's name is the LORD—  
be exultant before God.**

Father of orphans and protector of widows  
is God in God's holy habitation.

God gives the desolate a home to live in;  
God leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

O God, when you went out before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,  
the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad;  
you restored your heritage when it languished;  
your flock found a dwelling in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

**Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
sing praises to the Lord,  
O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
listen, God sends out God's voice, the Lord's mighty voice.**

**Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel;  
and whose power is in the skies.**

**Awesome is God in God's sanctuary,  
the God of Israel;  
God gives power and strength to God's people.**  
Blessed be God!

\*Hymn of Praise #462

*I Love to Tell the Story*

\*Call to Confession

Brother and sisters,  
God not only desires our repentance,  
but longs to offer us forgiveness.  
Therefore, cast all your anxiety on God,  
because God cares for us eternally.

\*Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)

**Graceful and merciful God,  
so many times we gather expecting you to do great things,  
yet at the same time we are unaware that you are expecting great things from  
us.**

**Like the original disciples we often look for you where we have last seen you,  
oblivious that you are expecting us to move on.**

**May your Holy Spirit come upon us  
and cleanse us of these and all of our sins.**

**Then, may we be moved to be your witnesses to our broken and hurting world...**  
*(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)*

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers,  
the Spirit of God is resting on us,  
to restore, support, and strengthen us.  
Therefore, be at peace in the One who forgives  
and loves us;  
rise up and give God thanks.

\*Congregational Response

*My Chains Are Gone* (chorus)

## **HEARING THE GOOD NEWS**

Message in Music

*Come, Ye Blessed*, John Prindle Scott

Prayer for Illumination

### RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

\*Affirmation of Faith (Leader **People**) The Heidelberg Catechism, Question 49, adapted  
How does Jesus' ascension to heaven benefit us?

**First, Jesus is our advocate**

**in heaven**

**in the presence of God the Father.**

**Second, we have our own flesh in heaven**

**as a sure pledge that Jesus our head**

**will also take us, his members,**

**up to himself.**

**Third, Jesus sends his Spirit to us on earth**

**as a corresponding pledge.**

**By the Spirit's power**

**we seek not earthly things**

**but the things above, where Jesus is,**

**sitting at God's right hand.**

\*Hymn of Response #295

*Go to the World*

Offering

*Air (from Water Music), G.F. Handel*

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

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name.

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power,**

**and the glory,**

**forever.**

**Amen.**

Your kingdom come.

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power,**

**and the glory,**

**forever.**

**Amen.**

Your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever.**

**Amen.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever.**

**Amen.**

And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever.**

**Amen.**

And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
but rescue us from the evil one.

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever.**

**Amen.**

### **SENDING FOR SERVICE**

\*Sending Hymn #353

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

\*Charge

\*Blessing

\*Postlude

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, 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.

This week we say **good-bye** to our Treasurer Liza Nosich. Liza and her family are relocating to the Washington, D.C. area. Thanks, Liza, for all you've done for us, and may God bless you and your family during your move and as you adjust to a new home. We also say **hello** to Carrie Bowman our new Treasurer. Carrie brings years of accounting experience with her and we're excited to add her to our staff.

**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).

Even though School is remote learning, we are still helping the **Longfellow School** families. There have been several opportunities to help families as their circumstances have worsened. The Mission Committee is trying to make sure we have funds to help in these needs as well as help fund their food pantry which is distributing 15 boxes of food per week with another 15 available for pickup. We are praying you will help us in this mission. Please make any contributions to the church and mark them Longfellow Mission Fund. Thank you so much for your generous support!

Beth Moore's **Bible Study for women** entitled "Chasing Vines" continues on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. through June 17. To sign up, or for more information, contact Alissa at 406-231-2348 or [cedirector@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto: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.

**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, **The Anabaptists**, called “the Radicals,” were opposed by just about every-one—Catholics, Protestants, and political leaders. Two of their earliest leaders, Michael and Margaretha Sattler, were executed for their beliefs while still young, but their legacy endures to this day.

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](mailto:pastor@firstpresgfmt.org))

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](mailto:davebikeil@bresnan.net)) today.

### COMING WORSHIP THEMES

#### **Next Sunday, 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

#### **June 14, 2020**

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Genesis 18:1-15  
Promises, Promises

#### **June 21, 2020**

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Genesis 21:8-21  
What’s A Father to Do?

**MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom*

Today, May 24	8:15 a.m.	Reformation Overview Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Tuesday, May 26	12:30 p.m.	Zoom Hang Out
	6:30 p.m.	Deacons' Meeting
Wednesday, May 27	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	2:00 p.m.	Chasing Vines Bible Study
Thursday, May 28	10:00 a.m.	Reformation Overview Class
	6:30 p.m.	Zoom Hang Out
Next Sunday, May 31	8:15 a.m.	Reformation Overview Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship – <b>Wear Red</b>
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time

**UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom*

Thursday, June 4 .....	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 7 .....	Children & Youth Ministries Committee, 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, June 9 .....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
	Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 11 .....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Saturday, June 12 .....	Presbytery of Glacier Meeting
	PW 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, June 16 .....	Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 23 .....	Deacons' 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	Deb Skinner
Bruce Buer (Moderator)	Dave Herman	Robb Sparks
Kitty Cornwell	Chris Pfof	Marla Wilckens
Shirley Davis		

**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	

**Fed by the Father**

God loves his little birds; for all  
his tender care he shows;  
a single sparrow cannot fall  
but its Creator knows. ...

God loves each little bird; but still  
more tender is his care  
for children who obey his will,  
than for the fowls of air.

—Anonymous