

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



July 12, 2020

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Presbyterian Church

1315 Central Avenue


Great Falls, Montana 59401

(406) 453-1411

Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.

www.firstpresgfmt.org

secretary@firstpresgfmt.org

 firstpresgfmt

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ... Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.” (Psalm 119:105, 108, NRSV)

Isaiah declares that the word of God will surely accomplish God’s purpose. (Isaiah 55:11) May we eagerly hear God’s message so we might also live it. **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 Romans 7:15-25a? When did you thank God for Jesus rescuing you from doing what you know you shouldn’t have done?

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.

All music copied and projected with permission, CCLI #2716126, OneLicense A-722348.

* 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

Gathering Music

*Here I Am to Worship
One Thing Remains*

Welcome

*Call to Worship (Leader **People**) (see Psalm 65)

God's creation delights and astonishes.

Let the people pause and wonder!

God, the Creator, has made it all.

Let all creation shout and sing!

Alleluia!

*Song of Praise *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)*

*Call to Confession (Leader **People**)

The Scriptures are shot through with stories of people just like us:

men who grieved,

women who questioned,

siblings who did not get along,

parents who chose favorites.

God's word of grace is meant for people just like us.

There is no need for pretense in this place.

Let us go to God in prayer.

*Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)

Patient and persistent God,

we come, polished and presentable,

to this comfortable room as if we knew what to expect,

as if this were a safe and predictable place,

as if we could simply observe.

Holy One,

forgive our tepid expectations.

In the mystery of your love,

overshadow us.

Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts

until we bloom and spill with your passion

to serve in a world that is wasting...

(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)

*Assurance of Forgiveness (Leader **People**)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

The Spirit of God dwells in us.

If you hear nothing else today, hear these words:

there is no condemnation.

In the name of Jesus,

we are forgiven.

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

The Sower, Medical Mission Sisters

Scripture & Message

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith

Lord, I Believe

*Song of Response

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Offering

Give Thanks

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

Kriewald

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Song

Step by Step

*Charge

*Blessing

May our service be pleasing to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Join us for an afternoon of **mini golf** today at Valley View Garden Golf at 12:00 noon. Cost is \$7 per person, \$5 12 years old and younger. We’ll meet there.

Tithes and Offerings may be mailed to the church office (we are receiving mail) or made online through our website.

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. If there is anything the elders, deacons, or staff can do for you during this time, please let us know.

If you would like a copy of the July-August *The Upper Room* sent to you, please let the office know.

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).

COMING WORSHIP THEMES

Next Sunday, July 19, 2020

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Alissa Brown will be preaching while John
is on vacation

Matthew 13:25-30, 36-43

August 2, 2020

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 9, 2020

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2020

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Alissa Brown will be preaching while John
is on vacation

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom

Today, July 12

10:00 a.m.

John is on vacation through July 26

Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Time

12:00 noon

Mini Golf @ Valley View Garden Golf

Tuesday, July 14

4:00 p.m.

Finance Committee

5:30 p.m.

Property Committee

Next Sunday, July 19

10:00 a.m.

Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Time

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom

Monday, July 6 – Sunday, July 26.....John is on Vacation

Saturday, July 25.....9:00 a.m., PW

Tuesday, August 412:00 noon, Souler Energy Committee

Thursday, August 6.....5:30 p.m. Worship Committee

Sunday, August 9.....Gates of the Mountains Boat Trip, 12:00 noon

Tuesday, August 11Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.

Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 13.....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	Sara Buley	Mary Fagenstrom	Scott Royce
Alissa Brown	Rees Davies	Kathy Herman	Dean Schamp
Jan Brown	Dave Dobbs	Randy Houtz (Clerk)	

Deacons

Stuart Brown	Shirley Davis	Chris Pfof	Robb Sparks
Bruce Buer (Mod.)	Tom Hazen	Deb Skinner	Marla Wilckens
Kitty Cornwell	Dave Herman		

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	Brittany Collins, Nursery
Liza Nosich, Treasurer	

God's Constant Creativity In Isaiah 43:19, God proclaims, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (NIV) God's process of creating is active and ongoing, meaning there's always something new for us to notice, grasp and learn. "God's will is not an abstraction," writes Thomas Merton in *No Man Is an Island*. "It is a living concrete reality in the lives of [people], and our souls are created to burn as flames within his flame. The will of the Lord is not a static center drawing our souls blindly toward itself. It is a creative power, working everywhere, giving life and being and direction to all things, and above all forming and creating, in the midst of an old creation, a whole new world which is called the Kingdom of God."