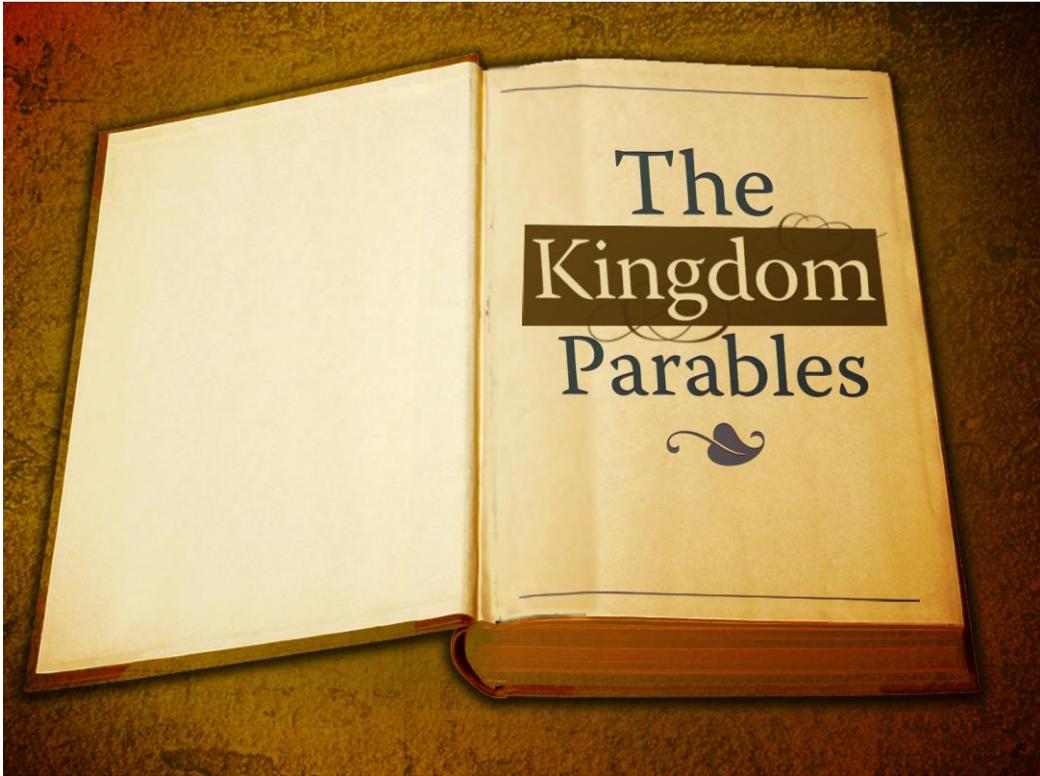


Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50
The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...



July 26, 2020
17th 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

God, thank you that by your power, small things like seeds — and faith — can grow big and strong. Nurture our growth in you always. Amen.

Welcome, dear friends. Because nothing can “separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39), we have gathered to respond in worship and praise. With voices full of excitement, attitudes full of enthusiasm, and spirits full of joy let us actively give our worship to God.

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, Tom Hazen, Dwight Holman, Randy & Caroline Houtz, Joan Schmidt, Deb Skinner, 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

Hymn to Joy, Beethoven/arr. Ellsasser

Welcome

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

Psalm 105:1-5, 7a, 45b, adapted

O give thanks to the LORD, call upon the Lord's name,
make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples.

We will praise the Lord!

Sing to the Lord, sing praises to the Lord;
tell of all the wonderful works of God.

Glory in God's holy name;

we who seek the Lord, our hearts rejoice.

Seek the Lord and the strength of the Lord continually.

We remember the wonderful works the Lord has done.

miracles performed by the Lord and judgments uttered by God.

The Lord is our God.

Praise the Lord!

*Hymn of Praise #611

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

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

Sisters and brothers,
God never forgets God's promises;
God's covenant endures in each new generation.

**We are free to speak the truth about our lives
because God's faithfulness embraces us
as we examine our hearts.**

*Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O Sovereign God,

we often laugh at the small things in life,

forgetting that sometimes they lead to great pleasures.

We let fear and embarrassment keep us from speaking the smallest of prayers in public,

forgetting that one small prayer has the power of your Spirit.

At times we are so busy living our lives

that we fail to notice your treasure hidden in our midst.

At other times we are so busy searching for you

that we get caught up with the search and forget about the goal.

Still at other times, we are so busy looking for holes in the net

that we forget about being your disciples and doing your work.

Help us to move out of the ruts of our lives

so we may climb the mountains of your possibilities.

Forgive us,

expand our vision,

and grant us fresh opportunities to serve you...

(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)

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

What then are we to say about these things?

If God is for us, who is against us?

Sisters and brothers,

nothing we have done,

nothing we will ever do,

is enough to separate us from the love of God

made known in Christ Jesus.

In Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

Song of the Mustard Seed, Hal H. Hopson

Scripture & Message

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50
The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (**Unison**) Selected verses from the Gospel According to Matthew

The proclamation is this, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

The kingdom of heaven is not for those who simply say to Jesus, “Lord, Lord!”

Nor is it for those who claim to be heirs, yet do not have righteousness which exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees.

The kingdom of heaven does not belong to rich people.

Our proclamation is this, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

The kingdom of heaven is for the poor in spirit and those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness.

The kingdom of heaven belongs to the little children.

We proclaim to the world, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

*Hymn of Response #771

What Is the World Like

Offering

Andante Religioso (from Sonata 4), Felix Mendelssohn

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, KJV, Traditional) (**Unison**)

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory,

forever.

Amen.

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Hymn #339

Lift Every Voice and Sing

*Charge

*Blessing

*Response #44

Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us

*Postlude

Fantasia in D Minor, Johann Pachelbel

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.

Jonah: A Prophet on the Run Join us for a 5-week study of the book of Jonah beginning Thursday, August 6 at 10:00 a.m. (or Sunday, August 9 at 8:15 a.m.) We’ll meet each Thursday, with the same lesson repeated the following Sunday. What are the messages of judgment and grace to us today from this rebel prophet? Let John or the office know if you are interested in attending and a Zoom link will be sent to you.

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

If you are not receiving emails, please send your current email address to the office, secretary@firstpresgfmt.org.

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, August 2, 2020

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 14:13-21

The Feeding of the Five Thousand

August 16, 2020

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 1

Running Away from God

August 9, 2020

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50

August 23, 2020

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 2

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom

Today, July 26	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Next Sunday, August 2	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

Tuesday, August 4	12:00 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 11	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
	Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, August 13.....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Tuesday, August 18	Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, August 22.....	PW, 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, August 25	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	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	

Taking Measure of Prayer Fluency [in prayer] is a questionable endowment, especially when it is not accompanied with the weight of thought and depth of feeling. Some [people] pray by the yard, but true prayer is measured by weight, not by length. A single groan before God may have more fullness of prayer in it than a fine oration of great length.

—Charles Spurgeon