

**Matthew 14:13-21**  
**The Feeding of the Five Thousand**



**August 2, 2020**  
**18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.firstpresgfmt.org)

[secretary@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresgfmt.org)  
 firstpresgfmt

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*Creator of all that is good,  
open our ears and heart to your gospel of love and justice today. Amen.*

The Lord invites all people, “Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters.” (Isaiah 55:1, NRSV) So we gather to quench our spiritual thirst with the Living Water. **Welcome.** 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 13:31-33, 44-50. When did you have faith that the kingdom of heaven would be realized in all its glory? How did you share this with 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.

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. If you are joining us at home, 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 Deb Skinner, Kitty Cornwell, Butch Steele, April Hansen, Dave Dobbs, Joan Schmidt, 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 & HEARING THE GOOD NEWS**

Prelude

*Jesus Fed 5000*, Kathy Elden

Welcome

\*Call to Worship (Leader **People**) see Isaiah 55:1, Psalm 145:15, Matthew 14:20

All who hunger—gather gladly.

**We come to pour ourselves out in prayer and praise.**

Come to the waters; come, eat and drink.

**The Lord gives us food in due season.**

Here, blessings multiply as gifts are shared.

**Here, love abounds and grace overflows.**

Come to Jesus; come, eat and be filled.

**We come to feast on the life-giving Word.**

Here, we open ourselves to renewal and rest.

**By the grace of God, there is plenty for all.**

\*Hymn of Praise #509

*All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

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

from Psalm 17:1-2, 6-7

The LORD will hear a just cause,

will attend to our cries,

and will give ear to our prayers.

**Our vindication will come from God alone.**

Let us call upon God

who will hear our words

and answer us.

**The steadfast love of our savior**

**will be shown to those who seek refuge in God.**

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

**Precious Lord,**

so many times we long to be alone with you,  
only to be frustrated by those who keep interrupting our private time  
with you  
demanding help with everyday life.

**Gracious God,**

we confess that we are those disciples,  
who expect people to fend for themselves  
and are afraid to take responsibility for others.

**God of abundance,**

in you there is always more than enough.

But we only see scarcity.

We confess that fear overcomes us  
when you tell us to welcome people and to meet their needs.

Disbelief moves in

when you ask us to do what appears to be impossible,  
because we only see few and limited resources,  
and our energy is spent.

**Forgive our sins of**

selfishness,  
short-sightedness,  
fear,  
and disbelief.

**In that forgiveness,**

may we be always open to receiving and sharing  
your miraculous deeds of mercy and compassion...

*(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)*

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

from Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

The LORD is full of grace and mercy,  
slow to anger,  
and overflowing with unwavering love.

The LORD is good to all,

God's compassion flows over all the creation.

The LORD lifts all who are falling,

and raises up all who are beat down by life.

The LORD is just,

and kind.

The LORD is near to all who truthfully call on God.  
**God fulfills our desire for forgiveness;  
and saves us.**

**We will the praise of the LORD,  
blessing God's holy name forever and ever.**

Message in Music

*Come to the Water*, John Foley

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Matthew 14:13-21  
The Feeding of the Five Thousand

### **RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS**

\*Affirmation of Faith (**Unison**) A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.4, lines 52-53, 65-71, adapted

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit**

**everywhere the giver and renewer of life.**

**In a broken and fearful world**

**the Spirit gives us courage**

**to pray without ceasing,**

**to witness among all peoples to Jesus as Lord and Savior,**

**to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,**

**to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,**

**and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.**

\*Hymn of Response #498

*Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken*

Offering

*Basse et Dessus de Trompette*, Louis Nicolas Clerambault

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 #460

*Break Thou the Bread of Life*

Prayer after Communion (**Unison**)

**Gracious God, you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service. Help us who have shared Christ's body and received the cup, to be faithful disciples of Jesus so that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and our love be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

## **SENDING FOR SERVICE**

\*Sending Hymn #837

*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

\*Charge

\*Blessing

\*Postlude

*O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High, Healey Willan*

***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.

**Gates of the Mountains Boat Trip** Join us next Sunday, August 9. We will leave the church at noon. Please pack a sack lunch to bring with you. Rides are available or we can carpool or just form a train on the way there. Masks are required. Costs are: Adults 18-59 - \$16, Senior 60+ - \$14, Child 4-17 - \$10. We should be back around 6:00 p.m.

**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](mailto: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 9, 2020**

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Marsha Anson will be preaching while  
John is on vacation  
Isaiah 6:1-8  
Luke 5:1-11  
Called

### **August 16, 2020**

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jonah 1  
Running Away from God

### **August 23, 2020**

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jonah 2  
A Psalm of Thanksgiving

### **August 30, 2020**

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jonah 3  
Conversion of Nineveh

## MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted*

Today, August 2	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Tuesday, August 4	12:00 noon	Souler Energy Committee
Wednesday, August 5	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
Thursday, August 6	10:00 a.m.	Jonah Bible Study
	5:00 p.m.	Worship Committee
Friday, August 7 – Friday, August 14		John is on Vacation
Next Sunday, August 9	8:15 a.m.	Jonah Bible Study
	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	12:00 noon	Gates of the Mountains Boat Trip

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted*

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.
Tuesday, August 25 .....	Deacons Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 1 .....	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, September 3 .....	Worship Committee, 5:00 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  
Alissa Brown  
Jan Brown

Sara Buley  
Rees Davies  
Dave Dobbs

Mary Fagenstrom  
Kathy Herman  
Randy Houtz (Clerk)

Scott Royce  
Dean Schamp

**Deacons**

Stuart Brown  
Bruce Buer (Mod.)  
Kitty Cornwell

Shirley Davis  
Tom Hazen  
Dave Herman

Chris Pfof  
Deb Skinner

Robb Sparks  
Marla Wilckens

**Staff**

Rev. John E Ritchie, Pastor (906-322-9490)

Alissa Brown, CE Director  
Joan Schmidt, Ministry of Music  
Craig Anton, Facilities Manager  
Faith Janes, Secretary  
Liza Nosich, Treasurer

Butch Steele, Worship Video Coordinator

Alex Rosenleaf, Choir Director  
Kari Rosenleaf, Bell Choir Director  
Laura Jerome, Praise Band Director  
Brittany Collins, Nursery

**One and Only** God declines to sit atop an organizational flowchart. God is the organization. God is not interested in being president of the board. God is the board. And life doesn't work until everyone else sitting around the table in the boardroom of your heart is fired. The LORD is God, and there are no other applicants for that position. There are no partial gods, no honorary gods, no interim gods, no assistants to the regional gods. God is saying this not because God is insecure but because it's the way of truth in this universe, which is God's creation. Only one God owns and operates it. Only one God designed it, and only one God knows how it works. The LORD is the only God who can help us, direct us, satisfy us, save us.

—Kyle Idleman, *Gods at War*