

# Jonah 1

## Running Away From God




**August 16, 2020**  
**20<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**

*Thank you, Lord of life, for this beautiful summer day! May all who worship together today know the warmth of your presence and the sunlight of your love.*

Family of God, **welcome** to this time of worship and fellowship. The peace of the Lord be with you. 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, Dave Dobbs, Dwight Holman, Joan Schmidt, Laura Jerome, Ginger Blevins, Rick Blevins, Paula Jackson, Johnny Ritchie, Alex Rosenleaf, Deb Skinner, 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

Gathering Music

*Spirit of the Living God  
You Are My Hiding Place  
Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*

Welcome

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

Psalm 67, adapted

God is gracious to us and blesses us

God's face shines upon us,

this is so God's way may be known upon earth,

God's saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,**

**for you judge the peoples with equity**

**and guide the nations upon earth.**

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;**

**let all the peoples praise you.**

The earth has yielded its increase;

God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us;

let all the ends of the earth revere God.

\*Song of Praise

*Holy Ground*

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

Psalm 139:7-12 (The Message), adapted

Is there any place we can go to avoid God's Spirit?

Any place to be out of God's sight?

**If we climb to the sky, God is there!**

**If we go underground, God is there!**

**If we flew on morning's wings**

**to the far western horizon,**

God will find us in a minute—

God is already there waiting!

**God even sees us in the dark!**

**At night we're immersed in the light!**

It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to God;

night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to God.

Let us confess our sins without fear

to the One who yearns to embrace us, forgive us, protect us, and bless us.

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

**Holy God,**

**when your word comes to us,**

**sometimes we act like we do not hear you,**

**sometimes we hope you are actually talking to someone else,**

**sometimes we hear what you want us to do**

**and we run away.**

**You tell us to share the Good News,**

**but by keeping silent**

**we act like the News is not Good.**

**You tell us to go,**

**but we find comfort in staying home.**

**Your grace is for all,**

**but we ignore those who's sin cries out to you,**

**and we look down on those who exhibit their faith differently than we do.**

**Cleanse us again with your living water!**

**Help us trust and believe in your will!**

**And open us to serving as your messengers...**

*(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)*

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

See Jeremiah 23:23-24

The LORD is not far away,  
God is nearby.

**There is no secret place where the LORD, the creator of heaven and earth, cannot see us.**

God seeks us out, forgives us, and draws us close,  
because God loves us.

**By the saving act of Christ Jesus  
we are forgiven!**

By the breath of the Holy Spirit,  
we have new life!

### **HEARING THE GOOD NEWS**

Message in Music

*Go, Go Jonah*, Kathie Hill/Arr. Chris Marion

Scripture & Message

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

\*Affirmation of Faith

*Lord, I Believe*

\*Song of Response

*You Never Let Go*

Offering

*Give Thanks*

Prayers of the People and *The Lord's Prayer* (Responsively)

Kriewald

### **SENDING FOR SERVICE**

\*Sending Song

*How Can I Keep from Singing*

\*Charge

\*Blessing

\*Postlude

*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 study of the book of Jonah Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. (or Sundays at 8:15 a.m.) What are the messages of judgment and grace to us today from this rebel prophet? Let John or the office know if you need the Zoom link 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 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

### **September 6, 2020**

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 4

Jonah's Anger & Jonah is Reproved

Communion

### **September 13, 2020**

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Nicene Creed – Is Jesus God or Human?

**MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK**

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

Sunday, August 16	8:15 a.m.	Jonah Bible Study
	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
		Children & Youth Ministries Committee (Room 7)
Tuesday, August 18	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday, August 19	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
Thursday, August 20	10:00 a.m.	Jonah Bible Study
Next Sunday, August 23	8:15 a.m.	Jonah Bible Study
	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 Unless Noted*

Tuesday, September 1 .....	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, September 3 .....	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 8.....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
	Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 10 .....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Tuesday, September 15.....	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	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 Amid Pandemic** Last spring, life changed as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches — just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God? But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present — through them! Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, “Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you” (43:1-2, paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20).

—Sandy Hyland