

Jonah 2
A Psalm of Thanksgiving



August 23, 2020
21st 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

Even summer keeps us busy, Lord. During this time of worship, help us “be still, and know that [you are] God.” (Psalm 46:10)

Welcome to this opportunity to worship our loving and life-giving God! “Praise God from whom all blessings flow!” 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, COMPUTER, Dave Dobbs, Dwight Holman, Deb Skinner, Joan Schmidt, Tom Hazen, Sarah Schmidt, 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

Sonata in D Major (K. 288), Domenico Scarlatti

Welcome

*Call to Worship (Leader **People**) See Psalm 138

We give thanks to God with our whole heart.

We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness!

Though high above all things, God sees the lowly.

Even when we are in deep trouble, God makes us live again.

The love of God lasts forever!

*Hymn of Praise #20 *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

*Call to Confession (Leader **People**) See Psalm 124:8

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Confident in this ever-gracious, never-failing help,

we come before the Lord, confessing our sin and seeking forgiveness.

*Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)

Forgiving God,

we confess that we are conformed to this world.

We conform to this world's frantic pace,

too hectic to notice all the blessings you provide.

We conform to this world's reckless waste,

exploiting what you entrust to our care.

We conform to this world's shallow values,

oblivious to the giftedness of people different from us.

We conform to this world's impatient attitudes,

preferring the latest instead of the lasting.

Forgive our conformity and transform us, O God...

(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)

*Assurance of Forgiveness (Leader **People**) See Psalm 124:1, 8

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
we would now be lost in sin.

But it is the Lord who is on our side.

And so we are forgiven.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

I'm a Miracle!, Arr. David Culross

Scripture & Message

Jonah 2
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RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Hymn of Response #22

God of the Sparrow

Offering

Touch the Earth Lightly, Shirley Murray/Colin Gibson

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:2-4)

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.

Amen.

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Hymn #643

Now Thank We All Our God

*Charge

*Blessing

*Postlude

Nun Danket Alle Gott (from Triptych for Organ), Piet Post

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. Videos of all session will be posted to our YouTube page after the Sunday class.

Tithes and Offerings may be mailed to the church office or made online through our website.

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

Due to a scheduling error, our **Gates of the Mountains** boat trip has been rescheduled to Sunday, August 30. We will leave the church at 12:00 noon, take the 2:00 p.m. cruise, and return to the church around 6:00 p.m. If you do not already have a ticket, you may purchase one online at www.gatesofthemountains.com (make sure you purchase for August 30 at 2:00 p.m.). Please bring your own lunch and drinks, there is a restaurant on site.

Midweek Ministry is starting up again! Our Kickoff BBQ will be Wednesday, September 9 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Elk’s Riverside Park. Programs for all ages will begin Wednesday, September 16 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. (including dinner).

Upcoming **Adult Education** opportunities beginning in September include “What It Means To Be Presbyterian” and “Creed and Confession of the Presbyterian Church (USA)”. Stay tuned for more information.

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 30, 2020

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 3

Conversion of Nineveh

September 6, 2020

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 4

Jonah’s Anger & Jonah is Reproved

Communion

September 13, 2020

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Nicene Creed – Is Jesus God or
Human?

September 20, 2020

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

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
Wednesday, August 26	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
Thursday, August 27	10:00 a.m.	Jonah Bible Study
Next Sunday, August 30	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 Mountain Boat Trip

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.
Tuesday, September 22	Board of 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
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

Usher Duty It's human nature to sometimes slip into judgmentalism and arrogance: "I'd *never* do what *she* did!" we think or say. Or "People who [fill in the blank] shouldn't call themselves Christians. They don't belong in the church." Jesus clearly said, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1, ESV) and, memorably, made his point with the image of a speck in someone else's eye and a log in one's own. In *Love Does* (Thomas Nelson), Bob Goff reflects further on what Jesus' response would be when we put ourselves in positions of authority over others: "[Jesus] said people who followed him should think of themselves more like ushers rather than the bouncers, and it would be God who decides who gets in. We're the ones who simply show people to their seats that someone else paid for."