

# **Matthew 18:21-35**

## **The Value of Forgiveness**




**September 13, 2020**  
**24<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**

*Lord, you guided Israel with fire and cloud; we see your direction for us too: through prayer, wise friends and here in worship. Thank you!*

**Welcome** to worship! May the Lord enrich our time together. 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, Alyssa Brown, Joan Schmidt, Ginger Blevins, Rick Blevins, Stu Brown, 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 Together in God's Word  
And Actively Sharing the Good News of Christ*

***May our worship be pleasing to God!***

## GATHERING BEFORE GOD

Gathering Music

*Awesome God  
How Deep the Father's Love for Us  
I Surrender All*

Welcome

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

Psalm 103:1-2, adapted

May our souls, and all this is within us, bless the LORD!

**We have come to bless God's holy name.**

May our souls bless the LORD!

\*Song of Praise

*You Are My All in All*

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

Psalm 103:2-6, adapted

Do not forget all of God's benefits.

God forgives all our iniquities,

heals all our diseases,

**God redeems our life from the Pit,**

**crowns us with steadfast love and mercy,**

The Lord satisfies us with good as long as we live

so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**The LORD works vindication**

**and justice for all who are oppressed.**

Let us confess our sins to God

**who forgives and saves.**

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

**“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”**

**So we pray, O God;**

**yet we confess our lives show forth little mercy.**

**We pass judgment on people who think and live differently than do we.**

**Suspicion, jealousy, and quarrels infect our relationships,**

**and keep us from building communities where everyone feels welcome and is known.**

**Merciful God, again we ask your forgiveness.**

**Teach us and guide us to extend to others what we have received so abundantly from you:**

**forgiveness upon forgiveness**

**gracious acceptance,**

**saving help,**

**and love that will bind us together...**

*(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)*

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

Psalm 103:2, 8-13, adapted

Do not forget all of God’s benefits.

The LORD is merciful and gracious,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**God does not deal with us according to our sins,**

**nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,

so great is God’s steadfast love toward those who fear the Lord;

**as far as the east is from the west,**

**so far God removes our transgressions from us.**

As loving parents have compassion for their children,

so the LORD has compassion for those who fear God.

**In the name of Jesus,**

**we are forgiven.**

Reconciled to the God who loves us,

we will let live and love through Christ our Lord.

\*Praising God for God’s Forgiveness

*In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful*

## HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

*Cornerstone*

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Matthew 18:21-35  
The Value of Forgiveness

## RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

\*Affirmation of Faith

*Lord, I Believe*

\*Song of Response

*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

Offering

*Give Thanks*

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

Kriewald

## SENDING FOR SERVICE

\*Sending Song

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

\*Charge

\*Blessing

\*Departing Music

*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.

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

Upcoming **Adult Education** opportunities:

**“What It Means to Be Presbyterian”** If you have been wondering what it means to be a Presbyterian in the Presbyterian Church (USA), or desire a refresher course, join us beginning Wednesday, September 23 at 6:30 p.m. as we discover what makes us unique as Presbyterians. (Eventually, we’ll discover which method of making coffee best describes the PC(USA)!) This class will begin meeting on Zoom. When Midweek Ministry begins, there will be limited seating available in the church library. Let John or the office know if you need the Zoom link sent to you, and videos of all sessions will be posted to our YouTube page.

**“Creeds and Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA)”** Join us for a study of the *Book of Confessions*, the first part of the Constitution of the PC(USA), on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. or Sundays at 8:15 a.m. It will be helpful to have a copy of the Book of Confessions. We have several copies available, or a free pdf can be downloaded from [www.pcusastore.com](http://www.pcusastore.com). This week we’ll learn about the history and purpose of the Nicene Creed. Next week, we’ll focus on the Apostles’ Creed. Let John or the office know if you need the Zoom link sent to you, or if you would like a physical copy of the *Book of Confessions*. Videos of all sessions will be posted to our YouTube page after the Sunday class.

**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, September 20, 2020**

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

John 1:1-3, 10-18

The God Who Wants a Family

Beth McCaw, Presbytery Leader for

Glacier Presbytery, will be Preaching while

John is on Vacation

#### **September 27, 2020**

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

Exodus 17:1-7

Putting the Lord to the Test

#### **October 4, 2020**

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

World Communion Sunday

Philippians 3:4b-14

Breaking with the Past

#### **October 11, 2020**

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

Alissa Brown will be Preaching while John is on Vacation

## **MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK**

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

Today, Sunday, September 13	8:15 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Monday, September 14-September 20		John is on vacation
Tuesday, September 15	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday, September 16	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
Thursday, September 17	10:00 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
Next Sunday, September 20	8:15 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
	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*

Monday, September 21 .....	Nominating Committee, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 22 .....	Board of Deacons Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 4.....	Church BBQ & Mission/Ministry Fair, 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 6 .....	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, October 8.....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 10 .....	PW, 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, October 14 .....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
	Property Committee, 5:30 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	

**When God Crosses Our Paths** Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions.” Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God “sending us people with claims and petitions.” Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, “thinking of you” cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations. Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus’ name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God “crosses our paths” in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).