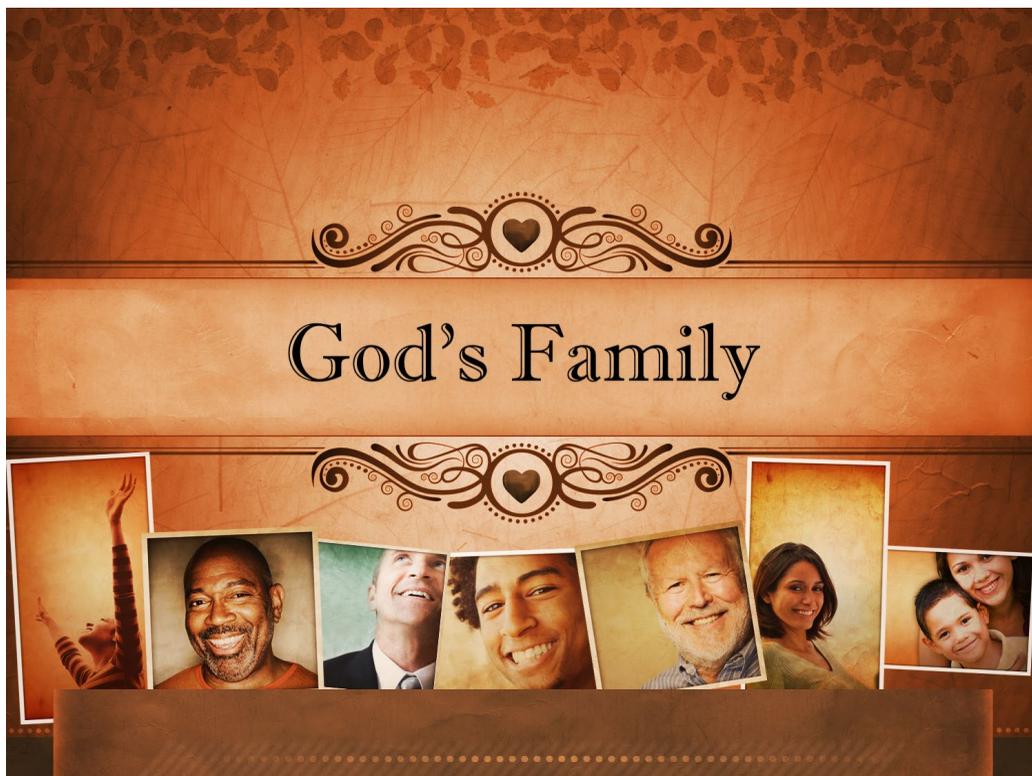


John 1:1-3, 10-18
The God Who Wants a Family



September 20, 2020
25th 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

Dear Lord, “we will meditate on your majestic, glorious splendor and your wonderful miracles.” (Psalm 145:5, NLT) Amen.

“The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing,” writes Paul, “but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18, NRSV) This is why we’re here! **Welcome!** 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.

Today we welcome the Rev. Beth McCaw who is preaching while John is on vacation. Beth is the presbytery leader for Glacier Presbytery.

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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

Prelude

Hyfrydol (Love Divine, All Loves Excelling), Healey Willan

Welcome

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

Psalm 98, adapted

O sing to the LORD a new song,
for the Lord has done marvelous things.

God's right hand and holy arm
have gotten the Lord victory.

The LORD has made known God's victory;
the Lord has revealed God's vindication in the sight of the nations.

The Lord has remembered God's steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

**Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.**

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the LORD, for the Lord is coming
to judge the earth.

The Lord will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

*Hymn of Praise #366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*Call to Confession #695

Change My Heart, O God

*Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)

**God-with-us,
we confess that we have not embraced your love.**

**We speak when we ought to listen;
we are silent when we ought to sing.**

**We are consumed with vanity
and work for things that perish.**

**Forgive us,
loving God.**

Enable us to believe and receive

**the glory of your Word made flesh:
good news of great joy
in Christ Jesus our Lord...**

(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)

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

Friends, hear the good news of our salvation:

God freely bestows God's grace on us through Christ Jesus.

In Christ

**we receive redemption and forgiveness of our trespasses,
according to the riches of the grace that God lavishes on us.**

So

be reconciled to God and one another.

*Praising God for God's Forgiveness #654

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

On Eagle's Wings, Michael Joncas

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

John 1:1-3, 10-18

The God Who Wants a Family

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (**Unison**)

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Hymn of Response #308

O God in Whom All Life Begins

Offering

When Thou Art Near, J.S. Bach

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 #307

God of Grace and God of Glory

*Charge

*Blessing

*Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory, Setting by Paul Manz

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.

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. This week we’ll learn about the history and purpose of The Apostles’ Creed. Next week, we’ll focus on The Scots Confession. 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.

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, September 27, 2020

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 17:1-7

Putting the Lord to the Test

October 11, 2020

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Alissa Brown will be Preaching while John is on Vacation

October 4, 2020

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Communion Sunday

Philippians 3:4b-14

Breaking with the Past

October 18, 2020

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 22:15-22

The Question about Paying Taxes

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

Today, 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
Monday, September 21	6:30 p.m.	Nominating Committee
Tuesday, September 22	6:30 p.m.	Board of Deacons Meeting
Wednesday, September 23	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:30 p.m.	What It Means To Be A Presbyterian Class
Thursday, September 24	10:00 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
Next Sunday, September 27	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

Sunday, October 4.....Church BBQ & Mission/Ministry Fair, 3:00 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, Publications Secretary
Liza Nosich, Accounts Payable/Payroll
Financial Secretary

Butch Steele, Worship Video Coordinator
Alex Rosenleaf, Choir Director
Kari Rosenleaf, Bell Choir Director
Johnny Ritchie, Music Assistant & Praise
Band Director
Brittany Collins, Nursery

Optimism Grounded in Hope “I am fundamentally an optimist,” said anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. “Part of being optimistic is keeping one’s head pointed toward the sun, one’s feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair.” Some say optimism is naive, “a generic good idea about the future” (Walter Brueggemann, *Reverberations of Faith*), and distinguish it from hope. But Mandela’s 27 years in prison and other sufferings would indicate that, in his case, optimism is anchored in deep hope. Our hope is grounded in God’s power to bring life from death, primarily in Jesus’ resurrection, and in other acts of deliverance. God brings joy from sorrow, healing from brokenness, love from hate. We can’t fathom what goodness awaits us down the road (Could Mandela, in prison, imagine becoming South Africa’s first black president?!), so we keep looking up and moving forward. Such optimism is rooted in profound hope — and is a gift of God.