

**Exodus 17:1-7**  
**Putting the Lord to the Test**



**September 27, 2020**  
**26<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 for this lovely fall day, Creator God.*

*We praise you for this time of rest and worship.*

**Welcome** to worship in the name of Jesus. Please greet those near you with a sign of peace. 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.

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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

*The Rejoicing, G.F. Handel*

Welcome

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

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, adapted

Give ear, O people of God, to God's teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of the Lord's mouth.

God will speak in a parable;  
the Lord will utter dark sayings from of old,  
things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.

Do not hide from our children;  
tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and God's might,  
and the wonders that God has done.

**In the sight of our ancestors the Lord worked marvels  
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.**

**The Lord divided the sea and let them pass through it,  
and made the waters stand like a heap.**

**In the daytime the Lord led them with a cloud,  
and all night long with a fiery light.**

**The Lord split rocks open in the wilderness,  
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.**

**The Lord made streams come out of the rock,  
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.**

\*Hymn of Praise #475

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

\*Call to Confession #695

*Change My Heart, O God*

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

**God, the fount of every blessing,  
your streams of mercy never cease to flow.  
Why do we, at the first sign of trouble,  
begin to doubt you?  
We harden our hearts,  
insisting you solve the problems we put before you.  
We quarrel amongst ourselves,  
and hoard what we fear we might lose.  
We abandon hope,  
though you shower us with your love and power.  
Do not be angry with us, Lord.  
Forgive our faithless hearts  
and make them more like yours – steadfast and full of love...  
(*Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness*)**

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

People of God,  
our sins are forgiven.  
The Lord is loving,  
and we are reconciled to God.  
**Therefore, let us humble and surrender ourselves  
to the will of God for the glory of the Lord.**

**\*Praising God for God's Forgiveness #654**

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

**HEARING THE GOOD NEWS**

Message in Music

*Come to the Water*, John Foley/Arr. Helvey

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Exodus 17:1-7  
Putting the Lord to the Test

## 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 #81

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

Offering

*To Thee, Lord Jesus, Thanks We Give, J.S. Bach*

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 #8

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

\*Charge

\*Blessing

\*Postlude

*Allegro (from Suite Gothique), Leon Boellmann*

*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 Wednesdays 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 Scots Confession. Next week, we’ll focus on The Heidelberg Catechism. 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](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, 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

#### **October 18, 2020**

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

Matthew 22:15-22

The Question about Paying Taxes

#### **October 25, 2020**

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

Reformation Sunday

Matthew 22:34-46

Reformed and Always Reforming

### **MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK**

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

Today, 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
Wednesday, September 30	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:30 p.m.	What It Means To Be A Presbyterian Class
Thursday, October 1	10:00 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
Next Sunday, October 4	8:15 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	3:00 p.m.	Church BBQ & Mission/Ministry Fair in the Central & 15 <sup>th</sup> Street N Parking Lot

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

**Alpha & Omega**

God created this world,  
everything that it holds.  
And God still is creating  
as each day unfolds.  
What we once called the future,  
we now call the past.  
While the present is fleeting,  
God stays — first and last!  
—Peggy Ferrell