



October 4, 2020
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

*God our sustenance and rest, thank you for these moments of quiet before worship.
Help us center our attention on you.*

Good morning and **welcome!** Let us worship God who creates all things, came as Jesus to save the world and breathes life into us through the Holy Spirit. Amen. 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.

May you be renewed and strengthened this morning through our celebration of **Communion**. The Presbyterian Church (USA) has an open communion table. We welcome all who are Baptized "in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" by any Christian denomination to join us in communing with our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. If you are joining us at home, be sure to have something ready for the bread and juice at the appropriate time. You will be instructed when to eat and drink.

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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 *Allegro Maestoso* (Belgium), Flor Peeters (Op. 55, #13)

Welcome

*Call to Worship Rev. Gloria Ulloa, Presbyterian Church of Colombia

*Hymn of Praise #20 *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (England)

*Call to Confession #695 *Change My Heart, O God* (English/Spanish)

*Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)

Righteous God,

it is easy for us to list our accomplishments in attempts to prove to others, and ourselves, how good we are.

And, we greatly enjoy the comfort of remembering the glory of those earthly deeds.

Yet many times our list mentions nothing of what we have suffered for Jesus.

We even judge others by what they have done in the flesh, instead of what they have lost for the sake of Christ.

In our lives,

**we are often content and lazy,
as if we have reached the goal.**

Forgive us, Lord.

**Strengthen us to strive daily to strain forward,
as we forget what lies behind us.**

We seek forgiveness in the name of Jesus, your Son...

(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)

*Assurance of Forgiveness (Leader **People**) (from Philippians 3:9 and Ephesians 2:17)

**“God accepted us simply because of our faith in Jesus,”
through whom our sins were forgiven.**

May God help us to continue to “preach peace to those who are near and far.”

Amen.

*Praising God for God’s Forgiveness #654 *In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful* (France)

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music *Siyahamba – We Are Singing for the Lord Is Our Light* (Zulu),
Arr, Hal Hopson

Prayer for Illumination Magdaléna Trgalová, Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (**Unison**) The Scots Confession, 3.10

We undoubtedly believe, since it was impossible that the sorrows of death should retain in bondage the Author of life, that our Lord Jesus crucified, dead, and buried, who descended into hell, did rise again for our justification, and the destruction of the one who was the author of death, and brought life again to us who were subject to death and its bondage. We know that the resurrection of Jesus was confirmed by the testimony of his enemies, and by the resurrection of the dead, whose graves did open, and they did rise and appear to many within the city of Jerusalem. It was also confirmed by the testimony of God's angels, and by the senses and judgment of the apostles and of others, who had conversation, and did eat and drink with Jesus after his resurrection.

*Hymn of Response #846 *Fight the Good Fight* (Greek)

Offering *Versicle Allegretto from Soli Deo Gloria* (Netherlands), Camil Van Hulse

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table Readers in Quechua, Spanish, Portuguese,
Guaraní and Tsotsil

Prayer of Thanksgiving and *The Lord's Prayer* Malotte

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Communion of God's People #203 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* (Ghana)

Prayer after Communion (**Unison**)

Holy God, we give you thanks that you have claimed us as your own and nourished us in this meal as members of Christ's body. By the work of your Spirit within us give us the grace to glorify you as one, living body in the world; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Hymn *Go Now In Peace* (United States)

*Charge

*Blessing Rev. Philip Akway Obong, South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church

*Postlude Fantasy in C Major (German), J.S. Bach

May our service be pleasing to God!

WORSHIP NOTES

Video clips used in today's worship were produced by the global partners of the Presbyterian Mission department of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

All Things Bright and Beautiful was written by Cecil Frances (Humphreys) Alexander for the children of her Sunday school class to teach them the various truths of the Apostles' Creed. It illustrates the first phrase of the creed "I believe I God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." The hymn was first published in her *Hymns for Little Children* (1848). Born in Dublin, Ireland in April 1818, she was known to her family as Fanny. A well education and religious woman she married William Alexander in 1850, who, after serving several parishes, became the bishop of Derry and Raphoe in 1867. She was known for her longstanding practice of visiting the sick and carried on the active life of a bishop's wife, despite declining health in her later years. She died on October 12, 1895.

Fight the Good Fight was written by John Sael Bewley Monsell and was first published in *Hymns of Love and Praise for the Church's Year* in 1863. It is based on 1 Timothy 6:12. Born March 2, 1811, the second of three sons, Monsell was educated at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. He held a succession of chaplaincies before serving as the chancellor of the diocese of Connor from 1847–1853. He then became vicar of Egham, Surrey, where he remained until 1870, when he became rector of St. Nicholas's Church, Guildford. His death on April 9, 1875 at Guildford resulted from a tragic accident: while he was standing on a boulder to inspect building work on his church, the boulder moved, and he fell, breaking an arm and sustaining other injuries; he died some days later at the rectory, most probably from an infected wound.

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love is a folk hymn from Ghana. It was translated into English by Thomas Stevenson Colvin in 1969. Born on April 16, 1925 in Glasgow, Scotland, Tom served with the Royal Engineers in Burma and Singapore, was the traveling secretary of the Student Christian Movement, was youth secretary of the Iona Community between 1952 and 1954, and was ordained in 1954 in what is now Malawi, serving as a missionary in Ghana and Zimbabwe as well. Colvin was one of a new wave of missionaries who saw Africans as friends and colleagues and who valued their culture, as was made evident in restoring the African names for God that had been in use before the missionaries came. He devised hymn texts to melodies drawn from the daily life of Africa: boat songs, wedding songs, victory songs, and welcome songs. They were in English, the medium of education, but in a direct style that facilitated translation into local languages. They were mostly original, though some resulted from collaboration with African colleagues. He also served on many church and government development projects throughout Africa. He died on February 24, 2000 as the result of a heart attack.

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. This week we’ll learn about the history and purpose of The Heidelberg Catechism. Next week, we’ll focus on The Second Helvetic 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, October 11, 2020

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Alissa Brown will be Preaching while John
is on Vacation

October 18, 2020

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 22:15-22
The Question about Paying Taxes

October 25, 2020

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Reformation Sunday
Matthew 22:34-46
Reformed and Always Reforming

November 1, 2020

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
All Saints' Day
Communion
1 John 3:1-7
Children of God

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

Today, 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 th Street N Parking Lot
Tuesday, October 6	12:00 noon	Souler Energy Committee
Wednesday, October 7		John is on Vacation through October 15
	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:00 p.m.	MidWeek Ministry
	6:30 p.m.	What It Means To Be A Presbyterian Class
Thursday, October 8	10:00 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
	12:00 noon	Spiritual Life Committee
	5:00 p.m.	Worship Committee
Next Sunday, October 11	8:15 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time

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

Keyna Myers, Office 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

A Singular Focus When we try to focus on too many things at once, sometimes we end up doing nothing well. During a visit to their house (see Luke 10:38-42), Jesus tells Martha that only one thing is needed and that Mary has chosen rightly. Surely Jesus doesn't mean that quiet devotion is needed while serving others is not. But when we let ourselves get "worried and distracted by many things," we may lose sight of the one crucial thing: love. St. Francis is credited with the following quote: "God came to my house and asked for charity. And I fell on my knees and cried, 'Beloved, what may I give?' 'Just love,' God said. 'Just love.'" And in Galatians 5:6 (NRSV), Paul writes, "For in Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love." Amid all the worthy pursuits that fill your days, remember to choose rightly — by choosing love.