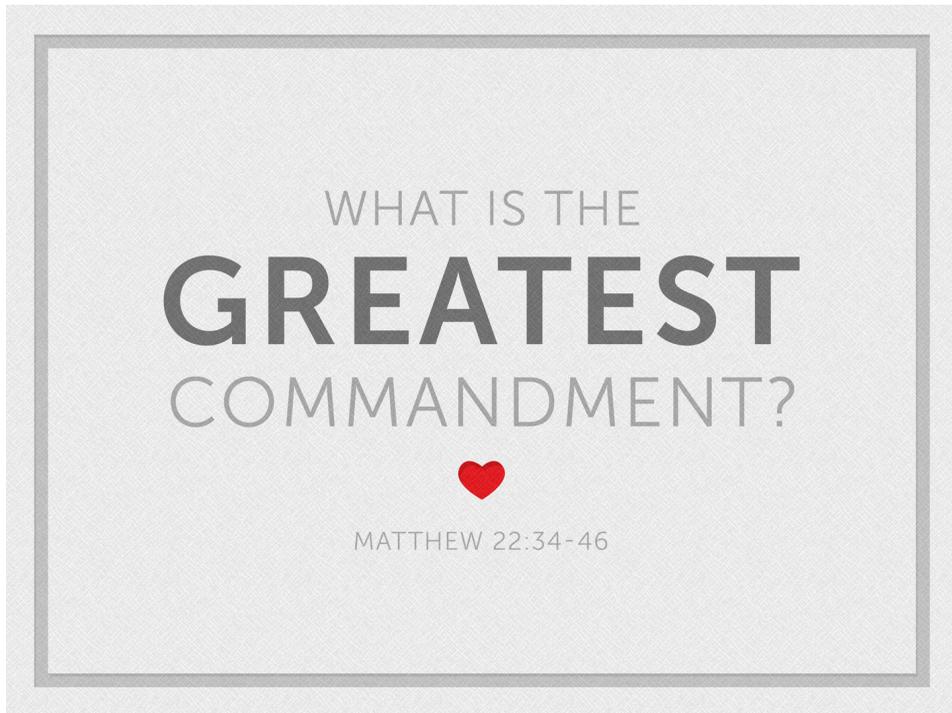


Matthew 22:34-46
Reformed and Always Reforming



October 25, 2020
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Reformation Sunday
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

Holy Spirit, you are always doing “a new thing”. (Isaiah 43:19) Help us welcome your new ways of love, justice and creativity in the Church, the world and our lives.

The greatest commandments are to love God and neighbor. **Welcome** to worship, where we're strengthened in God's love so we can better love others. May God's grace nourish you. 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.

All music copied and projected with permission, CCLI #2716126, OneLicense A-722348.

* 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

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go, Earl Roland Larson

Welcome

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

see Matthew 22:37, 39

Love the Lord our God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.

And love your neighbor as yourself.

Drawn by love,
we come,
to offer our whole selves in worship through Jesus
and with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us worship the Lord!

*Hymn of Praise #203

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

*Call to Confession #695

Change My Heart, O God

*Prayer of Confession (Leader **People**)

O God,
we know this, your Greatest Commandment:
love the Lord with heart, soul, and mind;
love your neighbor as yourself.

**These words dwell in our hearts
and rest on our lips.**

And, yet,

we are so slow to act upon them.

When we encounter neighbors in need

we are quick to pass judgment,
even though love demands empathy.

We see your children suffering,

but are too busy, too weary to respond,
even though love demands compassion.

We see unjust systems that strip others of dignity
but believe we are powerless to effect change,

even though love demands action.

And whenever we do not treat our neighbors

as we ourselves would hope to be treated,

we do not love you fully.

Forgive us, Lord.

Transform our hearts,

restore our souls,

and renew our minds,

so that we might be faithful to your commandments...

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

Brothers and sisters,
the Holy One who promises forgiveness to those who seek the good
hears our confession.

**As the crucified and risen child of God,
our Redeemer fully knows our sorrow
and our desire for reconciled relationships.**

We are forgiven.

**In that promise is the power to love our neighbors and yourselves
as beloved of God who created all that exists.**

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

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace (Prayer of St. Francis),
Sebastian Temple

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Matthew 22:23-46
Reformed and Always Reforming

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (**Unison**) The Westminster Confession of Faith, 6.088, adapted
**Good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and
evidences of a true and lively faith: and by them believers demonstrate their
thankfulness, strengthen their assurance, edify their brethren, adorn the
profession of the gospel, stop the mouths of the adversaries, and glorify God,
whose workmanship they are, created in Christ Jesus thereunto, that, having their
fruit unto holiness, they may have the end, eternal life.**

*Hymn of Response #302

When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace

Offering #708

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, Arr. Wilbur Held

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13, NRSV)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.
Amen.**

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Hymn #300

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

*Charge

*Blessing (Leader **People**)

see Matthew 22:37, 39

Love the Lord our God
with all your heart,
and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.

And love your neighbor as yourself.

Drawn by love,

we go,

to offer our whole selves in service through Jesus
and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let us service the Lord!

*Postlude

Deo Gracias (O Love How Deep, How Broad...), Healey Willan

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.

Trunk or Treat will be Saturday, October 31, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the parking lot. Volunteers are needed to provide and/or hand out candy. Call the church office for more information or to sign up.

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.

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).

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)!) 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 Theological Declaration of Barmen. Next week, we’ll focus on The Confession of 1967. 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.

COMING WORSHIP THEMES

Next Sunday, November 1, 2020

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

November 8, 2020

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 25:1-13
Faithful Preparation

November 15, 2020

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 25:14-30
The Parable of the Talents

November 22, 2020

Christ the King Sunday
Matthew 25:31-46
God's New Year's Resolution

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

Today, Sunday, October 25	8:15 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Tuesday, October 27	11:45 a.m.	Children & Youth Ministries Committee
	6:30 p.m.	Board of Deacons' Meeting
Wednesday, October 28	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 29	10:00 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
Saturday, October 31	10:00 a.m.	Glacier Presbytery Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Trunk or Treat
Next Sunday, November 1	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

Tuesday, November 3	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, November 5.....	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 10.....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
	Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 12.....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon

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 New Call Noted preacher Will Willimon received a frantic phone call from parents who feared their college-age daughter was throwing away her life. Asked to intervene, Willimon inquired why she was ending her studies to work with the children of migrant farmers. What had motivated her radical decision? “It was your sermon yesterday that started me to thinking,” she replied. Willimon had talked about how God wants us to do something important with our lives, leading the young woman to choose a new path that would make more impact and hold more meaning. After a long silence, he stammered, “But I was just preaching!” Willimon was just preaching, and the worshiper was just attending church while home on break. Yet she perceived a change in calling that led to a change in identity, security, priorities — and fulfillment.

—adapted from *The Wired Word*