

1 John 3:1-7
Children of God



November 1, 2020
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
All Saints' Day
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

“Oh, when the saints go marching in!” Thank you, Jesus, for counting us in that “number” — those saved by your grace and love.

Welcome to worship on All Saints’ Day! Today we saints on earth join with the saints in heaven to sing praises around God’s throne. 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

Nocturne in E Flat, Frederik Chopin (Opus 9, No. 2)

Welcome

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

see Revelation 7:9-17

Look! A vast multitude—

citizens of every nation,

speakers of every tongue—

standing before the throne of the Lamb.

See how they dwell within God's temple,

in the shelter of One who wipes away their tears.

We join our voices with these saints

and with the choir of angels,

who forever sing God's praise:

Blessing and glory and wisdom

and thanksgiving and honor

and power and might

be to our God forever and ever!

*Hymn of Praise #326

For All the Saints

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

Matthew 5:9

Jesus said: Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

Hungry for God's mercy,

let us tell the truth about our lives,

that we might receive grace in time of need.

Trusting in God's grace,

let us confess our sin.

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

Sovereign God,

we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm.

We want to be numbered among your saints,

but we are unwilling to face the time of trial.

We want to be gathered among the faithful,

but we are unprepared to offer you our lives.

Forgive us, merciful God,

so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence;

through Christ Jesus our Lord,

the Lamb upon the throne...

(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)

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

see Psalm 34:22

Sisters and brothers,

no one who takes refuge in God will be condemned.

Believe the good news!

In Jesus, we are forgiven.

*Praising God for God's Forgiveness #634

To God Be the Glory (v 1, Refrain)

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

All Good Gifts, Natalie Sleeth

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

1 John 3:1-7

Children of God

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (**Unison**) The Theological Declaration of Barmen, 8.17, adapted

The Christian Church is the congregation of the members in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the Church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.

*Hymn of Response #488

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

Offering

Improvisation on For All the Saints, Arr. Johnny Ritchie

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and *The Lord's Prayer*

Malotte

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Communion of God's People

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Prayer after Communion (**Unison**)

see Revelation 7:10

God of glory, in this holy feast you have made us one with Jesus and with that great multitude of the faithful—those who hunger and thirst no more and worship night and day in your temple. Lead us in the paths of righteousness and guide us to the springs of the water of life, until we join the choir of the redeemed, singing: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb: Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Litany of Remembering and Celebrating the Saints (Leader **People**)

Song of Remembrance and Celebration #730 *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* (v 1)

Henry Ward Beecher wrote,

“What the heart once owned and had, it shall never lose.”

Today we remember those whom our hearts have owned and had, and whom we know we will never lose.

We recall those who have touched our lives in such a way that we will never be the same.

We are grateful for the ways in which they have blessed our lives.

We light a candle in memory of those who gave us the gift of life.

We honor those who gave us birth and nurtured us, those who endowed us with a heritage and raised us.

We remember mothers and fathers, grandparents and great-grandparents, and all our ancestors through the ages.

We remember also those who were as mother or father to us, loving us by choice rather than chance.

We light a candle in memory of those who have linked us into the ongoing chain of family life.

We honor those who have shared our heredity and who have experienced our common bonds.

We remember sisters and brothers, aunts and uncles, relatives near and distant through time.

We light a candle in memory of those who have walked beside us in so many ways.

We remember those who have worked with us and played with us, who made our time on earth more enjoyable and our experiences in the world more memorable.

We remember friends and co-workers and neighbors who lifted us and expanded our horizons.

We light a candle in memory of those to whom we ourselves passed on the precious gift of life.

We hold dear in our hearts those we have held dear in our arms.

We remember children who have gone before us, and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We remember those who lived only within the womb, those who lived a very brief time after birth, as well as those who lived on this earth for any number of years.

Specifically, we remember...

Song of Remembrance and Celebration #730 *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* (v 2)

Gracious God,

as we conclude this time of remembrance, celebration, and hope,
we thank you for all our loved ones who are no longer with us.

We are mindful of family members and friends whose lives touched ours in many different ways and continue to impact us today.

Thank you, God.

They remain in our hearts.

We thank you for entering into the loneliness brought about by separation.

We thank you for your presence and comforting promises.

Thank you for being our refuge and strength.

Thank you for your love and compassion.

Thank you for offering us hope and healing in the face of brokenness.

We long for the day when all will be made new.

Grant us patience as we wait.

Enable us to trust you each new day, through the power of the Spirit.

Amen.

Song of Remembrance and Celebration #730 *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* (v 3)

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Hymn

Go Now In Peace

*Charge

*Blessing

*Postlude

Fugue in C Major, Dietrich Buxtehude

May our service be pleasing to God!

WORSHIP NOTES

If there is someone you'd like mentioned by name during our time of Remembering and Celebrating the Saints, you may forward that name in any of the following ways:

- ✦ If you are joining us in the sanctuary, please write the name on a piece of paper and give to John, Alissa, or an usher.
- ✦ If you are joining us from home:
 - ✦ If you are signed into YouTube, mention the name in a comment.
 - ✦ You may text the name to John at 260-322-9490.
 - ✦ You may email the name to John at pastor@firstpresgfmt.org

All methods will be monitored until we begin our time of Remembering and Celebrating the Saints.

Saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversaries of the deaths of martyrs – their birthdays as saints through the completion of their baptism. By the middle of the Church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, remembered and forgotten, known and unknown. It has been celebrated on or around November 1 since the ninth century. In the Reformed tradition, the emphasis of this festival is on the ongoing sanctification of the whole people of God. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, we also give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks for members of the community of faith who have died in the past year, and to pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

The liturgical color for All Saints' Day is white. White represents the light of Christ, innocence, purity, joy, triumph, and glory.

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.

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 Confession of 1967. Next week, we’ll focus on The Confession of Belhar. 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 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

November 29, 2020

1st Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Peter 1:3-9

Romans 8:18-25

Illuminating Advent: Advent Hope

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

Today, 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
Monday, November 2	6:30 p.m.	Mission Committee
Tuesday, November 3	12:00 noon	Souler Energy Committee
Wednesday, November 4	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, November 5	10:00 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
	5:00 p.m.	Worship Committee
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 10 Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, November 12..... Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
- Saturday, November 14PW, 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, November 17Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, November 22..... Children & Youth Ministries Committee, 11:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 24 Board of Deacons Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 1.....Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
- Thursday, December 3Worship Committee, 5:00 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
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 Meaningful Month Consumerism can prevent us from noticing needs, writes Walter Brueggemann (*The Prophetic Imagination*). A culture steeped in materialism and greed can “block out the cries of the denied ones ... so that no one discerns misery alive in the heart of God.” In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday and the start of Advent. What does it mean that Christ is our King? How can we truly give God thanks and prepare for Jesus’ coming? It’s a good time to ponder what hurts God’s heart — and how we can help. If someone is lonely, perhaps you can call or video chat them. If we sense inequality saddening God, we might advocate for fair policies. If God is in pain because some of his children have too little, we can share our resources. In so doing, we welcome Christ the King among us, and give him meaningful thanks.