

Matthew 25:14-30
The Parable of the Talents




November 15, 2020
33rd 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

God, you are solid ground for our faith, a sky of love to blanket us; your Spirit gives us breath, and your Son — living water and bread of life — nourishes us.

Psalm 90 begins: “Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.” A beloved hymn echoes: “O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.” **Welcome**, as we worship God, our eternal home and shelter. 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 *Prélude* (O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee), Claude Debussy (*Suite Bergamasque*)

Welcome

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

see Psalm 90:1, 2

Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations;

you have been our home throughout all the ages.

You were there before the world was made
and will be forever.

**From everlasting to everlasting
you are God.**

Pour into God's temple;
draw near to the king of creation.

We worship the Lord of heaven and earth!

*Hymn of Praise #612

We Praise You, O God

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

see 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

God has not destined us for wrath,

but for salvation in Jesus, who died for us.

Confident in God's mercies,
we confess our sin.

*Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)

Almighty God,

you have named us and claimed us and made us children of light.

Yet we reside in the darkness.

We settle for the seeming security and comforts of home,

where our talents may be tucked away,

our gifts preserved,

your mission paralyzed.

You call us to live in faith,

investing in the world you made—

to exercise our gifts,

even at the risk of losing them.

Have mercy upon us, Lord;

have mercy.

Help us understand your will for us.

Teach us what you desire.

Embolden us to steward well the gifts you have entrusted,

that one day, we might fully enter your joy...

(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)

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

see 1 Thessalonians 5:5

Children of light,

because we belong to our Lord Christ Jesus,
we need not fear—

**for Jesus lived for us, Jesus died for us,
Jesus was raised for us and Jesus prays for us.**

Believe the promise of baptism:

in Christ Jesus, we are forgiven.

*Praising God for God's Forgiveness #634

To God Be the Glory (v 1, Refrain)

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Matthew 25:14-30

The Parable of the Talents

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (**Unison**)

The Confession of Belhar, 10.1, adapted

**We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects
and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the
beginning of the world and will do to the end.**

*Hymn of Response #716

God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Offering

Day of Delight and Beauty Unbounded

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 719

Come, Labor On

*Charge

*Blessing

*Postlude

Menuet, Claude Debussy (Suite Bergamasque)

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.

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:

“Illuminating Advent” This study looks at Advent through four themes that are often used in connection with Advent wreaths and candles in churches. The four sessions consider Advent hope, peace, joy, and love. These terms are rich with biblical and theological meanings and also have personal meanings for the Church and disciples of Christ Jesus. Study of the images surrounding these four themes can thus enrich our Advent celebrations. We will also spend a week looking at Christmas, when the Word made flesh lived among us. And a week looking at Epiphany, which celebrates the message that Christ Jesus is for the whole world. Participant books are available in the office and can be delivered or mailed as desired. 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.

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 A Brief Statement of Faith – Presbyterian Church (USA). 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 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

December 6, 2020

2nd Sunday of Advent

Communion

Isaiah 9:1-7

John 14:25-31

Ephesians 2:11-22

Illuminating Advent: Advent Peace

December 13, 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Luke 2:8-14

Acts 8:1-8

Illuminating Advent: Advent Joy

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

Today, Sunday, November 15	8:15 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Tuesday, November 17	6:30 p.m.	Session
Wednesday, November 18	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:30 p.m.	What It Means To Be A Presbyterian Class
Thursday, November 19	10:00 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
	4:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
Saturday, November 14	10:00 a.m.	PW
Next Sunday, November 22	8:15 a.m.	Creeds & Confessions Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m.	Children & Youth Ministries Committee Decorate for Advent/Christmas

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

Tuesday, November 24	Board of Deacons Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 29	Illuminating Advent Class Begins
Tuesday, December 1	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, December 3	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 8	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m. Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 10	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Saturday, December 12	PW, 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, December 15	Session, 6:30 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	Sara Buley	Mary Fagenstrom	Scott Royce
Alissa Brown	Rees Davies	Kathy Herman	Dean Schamp
Jan Brown	Dave Dobbs	Randy Houtz (Clerk)	

Deacons

Stuart Brown	Shirley Davis	Chris Pfof	Robb Sparks
Bruce Buer (Mod.)	Tom Hazen	Deb Skinner	Marla Wilckens
Kitty Cornwell	Dave Herman		

Staff

Rev. John E Ritchie, Pastor (906-322-9490)	Liza Nosich, Accounts Payable/Payroll
Alissa Brown, CE Director	Financial Secretary
Joan Schmidt, Ministry of Music	Butch Steele, Worship Video Coordinator
Craig Anton, Facilities Manager	Alex Rosenleaf, Choir Director
Keyna Myers, Office Manager	Kari Rosenleaf, Bell Choir Director
Faith Janes, Publications Secretary	Johnny Ritchie, Music Assistant & Praise Band Director

“Greet God!” A Facebook acquaintance who’s in the ministry shared an interesting bit of culture from his time in Germany. By way of greeting, instead of “Guten Morgen” or “Hallo,” locals often said “Grüße Gott” — literally, “Greet God.” My friend took it to be a vestige of old, much as the English “goodbye” emerged from “God be with ye.” Though most people probably say “Grüße Gott” without much thought, my friend pondered: How might our encounters change if we heard in our greetings an invitation to “greet God” in the other person and in our shared interactions? What if we truly believed God was present in others and in the space between us? Jesus said when we welcome another, we welcome him. If Jesus came physically to our door, how would we welcome him? Can we treat the person before us that very way?

—Heidi Mann