

Isaiah 61:10-11
Luke 2:39-52
Losing Jesus



December 27, 2020
1st Sunday after Christmas
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

*Jesus, help us continue to celebrate your birth among us for the full 12 days
and, indeed, all year.*

Today we continue to celebrate Christmas – and God’s lavish gift of love, Jesus. **Welcome!** 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.

Today we welcome Marsha Anson who is preaching while John is on vacation.

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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

Gathering Music

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Go Tell It on the Mountain
Oh Holy Night*

Welcome

*Call to Worship (Leader **People**) Isaiah 61 and Psalm 148
Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!
Praise the Lord, all angels; praise God, all the host!
Praise God, sun and moon; praise the Lord, all you shining stars!
Praise God, you highest heavens; praise the Lord!
Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women, old and young together,
praise the name of the Lord!

*Song of Praise *We Three Kings*

*Call to Confession (Leader **People**) Luke 2:34
Jesus came revealing the inner thoughts of many.
We confess our sins before God and one another
that we may receive release from our sin.

*Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)
Emmanuel, God with us,
in the frenzy of our everyday lives we rush about blindly,
forgetting that in Christ we have seen our salvation, which you give freely to all.
Forgive us for so quickly losing sight of you,
and restore our vision,
that we may truly see the gift of salvation born among us, and show the good
news to all the world by our words and deeds...
(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)

*Assurance of Forgiveness (Leader **People**)
Beloved of God,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
as a bride adorns herself with her jewels,
God covers us with the robe of righteousness.
We know this to be true:
We you are forgiven in Jesus
and we live as God's beloved.

*Praising God for God's Forgiveness

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

The Little Drummer Boy

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Isaiah 61:10-11
Luke 2:39-52
Losing Jesus

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith

Mary Did You Know

*Song of Response

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Offering

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.**

Amen.

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Song

Joy to the World

*Charge (Leader **People**)

We are the Body of Christ;
**Joyfully worshiping God,
compassionately caring for one another,
humbly serving others,
continually growing together in God's Word,
and actively sharing the Good News of Christ.**

*Blessing

*Sending Music

May our service be pleasing to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The praise band wants to learn and lead your **favorite worship song**. Genre of the song does not matter, they can be contemporary praise, hymns, spirituals, etc. Please submit your request to Johnny Ritchie at praiseband@firstpresgfmt.org or call/text at 260-224-5790.

The praise band is currently looking to welcome a few **female vocalists** to the crew! If you are a female vocalist, love working with others, and are passionate/energetic about serving and leading through music then please contact Johnny Ritchie at praiseband@firstpresgfmt.org or call/text at 260-224-5790.

Tithes and Offerings may be mailed to the church office or made online through our website.

As the session continues to discuss the budget for 2021, be on the lookout for the 2021 **Stewardship** Brochure and Pledge Card coming soon!

Our times of worship are **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 upcoming live-streams can be found on our website and in the weekly Saturday morning email.

Sailboat Church embarks next Sunday, January 3, for an 8-week journey. Climb aboard and join us on a journey that will help us rethink our mission and practice as a congregation. The Sailboat Church is a time for us as a congregation, as well as individuals, to open ourselves to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, giving us the power to move into the future as the disciples of Jesus God is calling us to be. The more of us who participate, the better. Let the office know if you have not received a book. Also, if you have not yet signed up for a small group discussion crew, call the office to do so. Crews are scheduled for Sundays at 11:30 am; Mondays at 9:30 am; Tuesdays at 7:00 pm; Wednesdays at 2:00 pm; Thursdays at 10:00 am; Fridays at 4:00 pm; and Saturdays at 1:00 pm.

If you are not receiving **emails**, including the Saturday morning “Church Update”, 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).

While we welcome those who wish to join us for worship in the **sanctuary** on Sunday mornings, please be reminded of the precautions the session has put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic: seating in the sanctuary is limited as we honor the 6 feet of social distancing; everyone's temperature will be checked upon entering the building; masks are required while in the building; pew supplies have been removed; singing is prohibited; bulletins will be available after worship when exiting the building; prolonged socializing in the building is discouraged; gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer are readily available.

"Illuminating Advent" meets every Sunday at 8:15 a.m. (and repeated each following Thursday at 10:00 a.m.). This study looks at Advent through the four themes that are often used in connection with Advent wreaths and candles in churches: hope, peace, joy, and love. These terms are rich with biblical and theological meanings for the church and also have personal meanings for the disciples of Christ Jesus. Study of the images surrounding these four themes can 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.

The session has called a **congregational meeting** to elect officers on Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. The nominating committee will nominate the following:

Elder Class of 2021

Sharon Lindstrom

Gary McFerrin

Elder Class of 2023

Jane Snowberger

Jennie Yates.

Deacon Class of 2021

Shirley Davis

Deacon Class of 2023

Dave Herman

Barb Flaherty

COMING WORSHIP THEMES

Next Sunday, January 3, 2021

2nd Sunday after Christmas

Alissa Brown will be preaching while John
is on study leave

January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord Sunday

Communion

Key Biblical Appearance of the Holy Spirit

January 17, 2021

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Attributes of the Holy Spirit

January 24, 2021

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Works of the Holy Spirit

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

Today, Sunday, December 27		John is on Vacation & Study Leave through Wednesday, January 6
	8:15 a.m.	Illuminating Advent Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Thursday, December 31	10:00 a.m.	Illuminating Advent Class
Friday, January 1		The Office is Closed.
Next Sunday, January 3		Sailboat Church Embarks
	8:15 a.m.	Illuminating Advent Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship (Limited seating in the Sanctuary)
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 1

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

Tuesday, January 5.....	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, January 7	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 9	PW, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, January 10	Called Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers, 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, January 12.....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m. Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 13	River Readers, 10:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 14	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	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

Seasons of Hope The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity – hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory – because at the Father’s will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that 30 years later he might hang on a cross.

—J.I. Packer