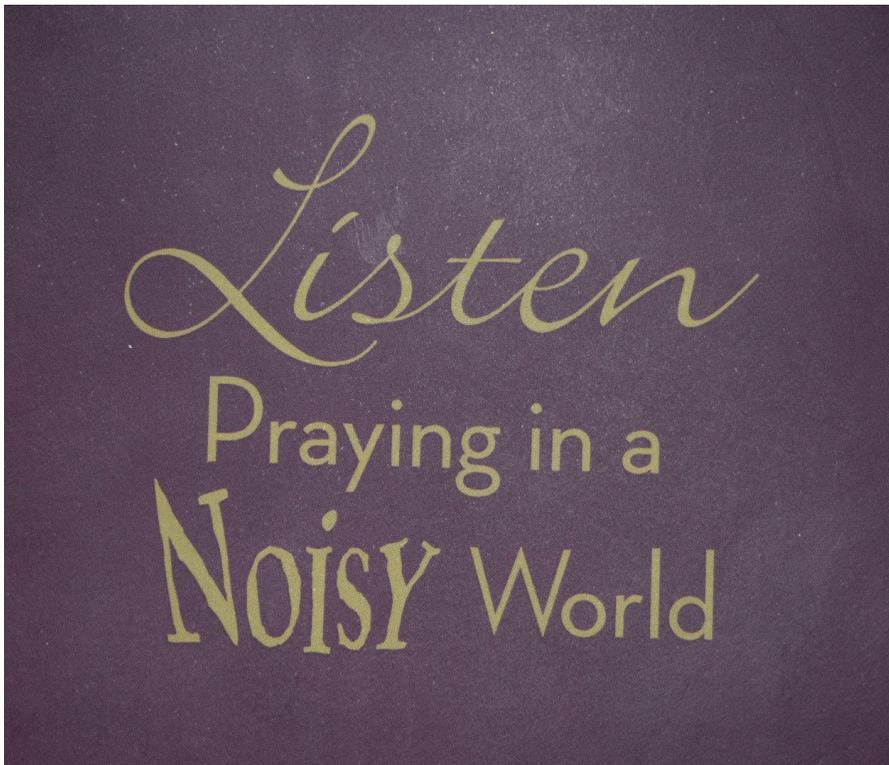


2 PETER 1:16-21
THIS IS MY SON, LISTEN TO HIM



February 21, 2021
1st Sunday in Lent
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

*Quiet the hearts of all who worship here, that we may focus on you, O Sacred One,
and bask in your love.*

Greetings, in the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit on this first Sunday in Lent. Let us walk with Jesus and one another these sacred 40 days. With voices full of excitement, attitudes full of enthusiasm, and spirits full of joy let us actively give our worship to God.

Last week, how did the representations of the Holy Spirit appear to you? Where did you see God active in the world? How did God purify you? What did you do as part of the body of Christ? When did God purify you?

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, projected, and live streamed 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

Arioso (from Concerto in F Minor), J.S. Bach

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Wild God of wilderness,
as we devote these forty days to you,
shape us by your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord,
so that we may be ready, by your grace,
to confront the power of death
with the promise of eternal life.

Amen.

*Song #452

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World

Prayer Practice/Type – Sitting in Silence

Song #188 (verse 1, refrain)

Jesus Loves Me!

Message in Music

I'll Walk with God, Webster/Brodsky

Prayer of Presence (**Unison**)

Holy God
of unconditional love
and unlimited presence,
we come to make ourselves fully available
to you, your will, and your way.

Speak to us gently and clearly,
for we are yours
and desire to hear, understand,
and be obedient
to your slightest whisper.

Speak, for we are listening.

Silence

Scripture

2 Peter 1:16-21

Reading

As a child I loved to spend warm summer days playing near where a freshwater spring brought cool water to a deep and long ravine surrounded by gently rising tall hills. While our dog, my constant companion, was hunting for frogs, I was exploring red-winged blackbird nests and tiny minnows that washed in with the spring snow melt, enjoying the cool water on my bare feet.

Of course, I had no watch, and now and then I would be lost in the mystery of that inviting space and miss my mother's call to the evening meal. If I was paying attention, I could usually hear her call even though our house was about a quarter of a mile away. But when I was not paying attention or listening for her voice, especially if the wind was blowing, there were times when I missed her call.

A follow-up to her call was to send one of my older brothers to bring me home. Their disappointment and displeasure at having to walk partway to get a wayward younger brother for the evening meal was often clearly expressed as we walked to the house, and I soon learned the high price of not listening and paying attention to a very important voice. It is easy to get focused on any number of things and miss out on hearing the most important voice we will ever hear.

Today it is very hard to hear the gentle voice of God in the loud and noisy culture in which we live. Sometimes we all need help, not only to listen but also to hear. The good news is that there is help available. The simple habit of following the rhythm of prayer that we are using as we live out these forty days of discovery can open our lives to the wonderful and surprising conversation that God seeks to have with each of us.

The truth is that sometimes we need help to hear.

Dialogue and Discovery

Reflection

Response

*Song #754

Help Us Accept Each Other

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Air (from Concerto No. 12), G.F. Handel

*Song #606

The Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

God of steadfast love and faithfulness,
we are humbled as we try to do what is right
and to walk in your ways.

Receive, we ask, these offerings,
and use them for your own good purposes
in the Church and in all creation.

We pray in Jesus
and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayers of Petition

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.

*Song #182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

*Blessing

*Postlude

Psalm 19 (The Heavens Declare), Benedetto Marcello

May our service be pleasing to God!

WORSHIP NOTES

Though we're in the midst of the 40 days of **Lent**, Sundays don't count as days of that season because they're always celebrations of the resurrection.

During Lent, our **order of worship** will be based on the prayer pattern presented in the book we are studying and using for our congregational Lenten experience, *Listen: Praying in a Noisy World*.

Prayer of Presence
Silence
Scripture
Reading
Dialogue and Discovery
Reflection
Response
Prayers of Petition
Blessing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The session has **rescheduled** the **Annual Meeting** of the congregation and corporation to Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Use this link to join from your computer, tablet or smart phone: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4911010646?pwd=azRJamU5dFRFdTdXU3R5Um1UZ09wZz09>.

You can type it into your browser, or if you would like it emailed to you let the office know. Then just click on the link. To call in on a landline or non-smart cell phone use any of these phone numbers. (346-248-7799) (669-900-6833) (253-215-8782) (312-626-6799) (929-205-6099) (301-715-8592) They are not toll free, and while you can hear and speak, there will be no video. You will be asked to enter the Meeting ID (491 101 0646) and the Passcode (406884).

If you would like the **Annual Report** mailed to you ahead of the Annual Meeting, please let the office know.

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

If you are not receiving **emails**, including the Saturday morning “Church Update”, please send your current email address to the office, secretary@firstpresgfmt.org.

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World is our Lenten theme this year. This 40-day experience will assist us in knowing how to pray, and how to hear and respond to God’s guidance. Together, each week, we will experience different prayer practices or habits, a daily prayer pattern for each week, daily scripture readings, a weekly story or reflection, and thought-provoking quotations. There are 3 times each week you can participate in a video-based small group discussion on each week’s theme: Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 pm, and Sundays at 8:15 a.m. Sign up by contacting John or the office so we can get you a book and Zoom connection information. Come and listen to God with us!

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.

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.

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).

Upper Room, Bulletins, Sermon Manuscripts If you would like any of these mailed to you on a weekly basis please let the office know.

COMING WORSHIP THEMES

Next Sunday, February 28, 2021

2nd Sunday in Lent

John 17:2-24

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World – Pray
Like This

March 7, 2021

3rd Sunday in Lent

Psalm 139:1-10

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World – A
Trusted Mentor

March 14, 2021

4th Sunday in Lent

1 John 4:7-10

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World –
Everybody Needs Help

March 21, 2021

5th Sunday in Lent

Ephesians 2:8-10

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World – Flying
Solo

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted

Today, Sunday, February 21	8:15 a.m.	Listen: Praying in a Noisy World 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
	1:00 p.m.	Children & Youth Ministries Committee
Monday, February 22	9:30 a.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 2
	6:30 p.m.	Bible 101 Class
	7:00 p.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 3
Tuesday, February 23	2:00 p.m.	“Stepping Up” Bible Study by Beth Moore
	6:30 p.m.	Board of Deacons Meeting
Wednesday, February 24	7:00 a.m.	Men’s Group
	2:00 p.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 4
	6:00 p.m.	Mid-week Ministry
Thursday, February 25	10:00 a.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 5
	11:15 a.m.	Listen: Praying in a Noisy World Class
	16:30 p.m.	Listen: Praying in a Noisy World Class
Friday, February 26	4:00 p.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 6
Next Sunday, February 28	8:15 a.m.	Listen: Praying in a Noisy World 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, March 2.....	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, March 4.....	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 9.....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m. Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 11.....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Saturday, March 13.....	PW, 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 16.....	Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 21.....	Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 23.....	Board of Deacons Meeting, 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

Ginger Blevins	John Ritchie (Moderator)	Scott Royce
Alissa Brown	Randy Houtz (Clerk)	Jane Snowberger
Mary Fagenstrom	Sharon Lindstrom	Jennie Yates
	Gary McFerrin	

Deacons

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

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

An Interlocking Community Jesus distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks.

—Max Lucado, *Fearless*