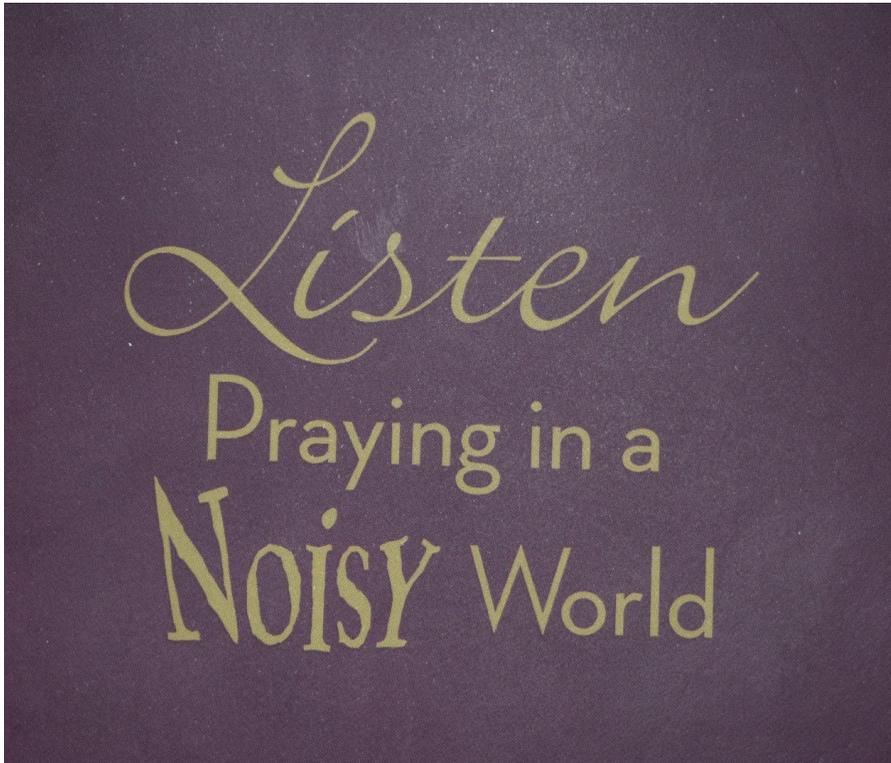


**JOHN 17:2-24**  
**PRAY LIKE THIS**



**February 28, 2021**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.firstpresgfmt.org)

[secretary@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresgfmt.org)

 firstpresgfmt



## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

*Show us, Jesus, how to take up our cross  
– to give of ourselves wholeheartedly for others –  
and follow you.*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, grace and peace be to you as we join in worship. **Welcome.** 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 well did you live God's message from 2 Peter 1:16-21? When did you listen to God? How did you obey God's message to 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

Gathering Music

*One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)  
Lead Me to the Cross  
God of Wonders*

Welcome

Call to Worship (Leader **People**)

As God set Abram, Sarai, and Lot on a journey, God calls us to follow in trust.

**God is able to make us more than we have been and blesses us on the way.**

As Jesus invited Nicodemus to be born again,

**Jesus invites us to become a new creation.**

Jesus calls us out of darkness into God's marvelous light,

**and we are saved through Jesus.**

\*Song #452

*Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World

Prayer Practice/Type – Releasing Our Fears, Needs, and Hopes

Message in Music

*Word of God Speak*

Prayer of Presence (**Unison**)

**Loving God,**

**Who understands before we form our prayers,**

**Who hears when we call and translates our humble words  
into beautiful hymns of gratitude and praise**

**And responds to our uncertain cries for help**

**with assurance, peace, and palpable presence,**

**Here we are as fully in your presence**

**as we are able to be,**

**Offering our fears, our needs, our hopes,**

**our love, and our lives,**

**For we are yours and belong to no other.**

Silence

Scripture

John 17:2-24

## Reading

Having celebrated my eighty-fifth birthday, I have practiced a life of prayer for a long time. However, the truth is that I am still learning how to pray. Of course, it could be no other way. Prayer grows out of and is built upon God's relationship with us and our relationship with God. And since God is infinite, why would we think that we could know everything about prayer? What we can become is faithful children of God who are led into an ever-deepening relationship with God and deeper levels of prayer.

Sometimes we are frightened away from our own prayer practices or even from beginning a life of prayer by others who talk about prayer in lofty terms that we do not understand. There are indeed many ways of prayer and many aids to prayer, but in reality prayer at its foundation is quite simple and open and available to everyone.

In response to the request of the disciples, Jesus taught them a simple and profound prayer. We call this prayer the Lord's Prayer. It captured the essence of the relationship Jesus had with his beloved Abba, and it continues to be the central model prayer of followers of Jesus today.

Prayer is not meant to be complicated, complex, and left to professionals. Prayer is for all of us. It is simply offering the fears, needs, hopes, longings, and questions of our minds and hearts to God as honestly, earnestly, and accurately as we can. Our prayers also express the essence of who we are and what our relationship is with God. Yet it is not our initiative that begins our prayer. Rather, it is God's seeking love and invitation that awaken within us the desire, courage, and need to pray.

It is encouraging to remember that prayer is not all up to us. God is always pursuing us, always trying to get our attention, always seeking relationship with us. Best of all, as Paul declares, the Holy Spirit assists us every step of the way: "We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case" (Romans 8:26).

If you have the desire to pray, you already have everything it takes to live a life of prayer. Permit the Spirit to guide you as you pray and as you journey deeper into a life of prayer.

## Dialogue and Discovery

## Reflection

Response

\*Song

*In The Secret*

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God,

we thank you for the covenant you established with Abraham and Sarah,  
which you have opened to us through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives,  
that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love  
and a testament to your enduring promise.

In Christ,

by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory are yours,  
now and forever.

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

*How Can I Keep From Singing*

**\*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

\*Postlude

*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*, by Rueben P Job.

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children and Youth Ministries Committee and Peace Place are sponsoring an Easter celebration for all ages on Saturday, April 3 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the Montana Credit Union parking lot. We will have game booths and prizes, as well as music and snacks. The games and prizes will be geared to different age groups, and the community will be invited. We are hoping that other committees and groups of the church will get involved by sponsoring a booth, providing prizes or volunteering to run a game or booth, or by helping to direct people. Especially needed are prizes for older children, such as Bibles, book covers, gift cards or ear buds, of various values of \$5 to \$20. This will be an opportunity to share Christ's love with the community and sail with the Holy Spirit! Questions? Contact Sara Buley, 788-3370, or Alissa Brown, 231-2348.

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.

If you are not receiving **emails**, including the Saturday morning "Church Update", please send your current email address to the office, [secretary@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto: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!

**Tithes and Offerings** may be mailed to the church office or made online through our website, [www.firstpresgfmt.org](http://www.firstpresgfmt.org).

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, March 7, 2021**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Psalm 139:1-10

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World – A  
Trusted Mentor

#### **March 14, 2021**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

1 John 4:7-10

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World –  
Everybody Needs Help

#### **March 21, 2021**

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Ephesians 2:8-10

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World – Flying  
Solo

#### **March 28, 2021**

Palm Sunday

Luke 22:14-20

Listen: Praying in a Noisy World – Getting  
Into Position

## **MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK**

*All Events Live-Streamed or via Zoom Unless Noted*

Today, 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
Monday, March 1	9:30 a.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 2
	6:30 p.m.	Bible 101 Class
Tuesday, March 2	12:00 noon	Souler Energy Committee
Wednesday, March 3	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:00 p.m.	Mid-week Ministry
Thursday, March 4	10:00 a.m.	Listen: Praying in a Noisy World Class
	5:00 p.m.	Worship Committee
	6:30 p.m.	Listen: Praying in a Noisy World Class
Next Sunday, March 7	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 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.
Sunday, March 28 .....	Children & Youth Ministries Committee, 11:45 a.m.
Thursday, April 1 .....	Worship 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	Randy Houtz (Clerk)	Scott Royce
Alissa Brown	Sharon Lindstrom	Jane Snowberger
Mary Fagenstrom	Gary McFerrin	Jennie Yates

**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

**A Daily Prayer** Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success or acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.