

MARK 16:1-8
TERROR AND AMAZEMENT



April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday
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

*With the women, we approach the place of death,
little knowing God's glorious surprise that awaits us.*

Christ is risen! Alleluia! **Welcome** to worship – and to resurrection life – on this most joyous day. 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 Luke 22:14-20? Were you attentive to God's presence in all aspects of your life? When and how were your expectations of God communicating to you met?

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

In the Garden, Arr. Lorie Line

Time of Silence

Welcome

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

Hear the good news! Do not be afraid.

Jesus is risen from the dead.

The Lord is risen! Alleluia!

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed!

This is the good news by which we are saved:

On the third day Jesus rose from the dead.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

*Song of Praise #232

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

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

Jesus' rising from the dead

assures us that we, too,

have been given new life.

We repent of our sin

before God and one another,

certain of God's mercy.

*Prayer of Confession (**Unison**)

God of all hope and joy,

we confess that we continue to live in fear.

You raised Jesus to new life,

yet we hold onto former things.

You offer salvation to all,

yet we fail to share this good news.

Forgive us,

God of grace.

Raise us to new life with Jesus,

that we might be saved.

**By your Spirit,
make us witnesses to the wonder of the empty tomb
and the fullness of life you promise;
through Christ Jesus our Lord...**
(Silent Personal Prayers for Forgiveness)

- *Assurance of Forgiveness (Leader **People**) see Psalm 118:14, 17
By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors,
the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and our salvation.
We shall not die but live.
The rejected cornerstone has become our strength and our song.
We are forgiven of all our sins,
in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
one God,
who lives and reigns, now and forever.

- *Praising God for God's Forgiveness *My Chains Are Gone* (Refrain)

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

- Message in Music *Because He Lives*, Wm. and Gloria Gaither
Prayer for Illumination
Scripture & Message Mark 16:1-8
Terror and Amazement

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

- *Affirmation of Faith (Leader **People**) The Heidelberg Catechism, 4.045
How does Christ's resurrection benefit us?
**First, by his resurrection he has overcome death,
so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his
death.**
**Second, by his power
we too are already raised to a new life.**
**Third, Christ's resurrection
is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.**

- *Song of Response #241 *Woman, Weeping in the Garden*

Giving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Offertory *Schonster, Herr Jesu (Most Beautiful Lord Jesus, My Soul Rejoices),*
Hermann Schroeder

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God,

you shower us with gifts so abundant,
we cannot measure them all.

You give us life itself

and the power to befriend our companions in this world.

Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need,

in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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

Hymn of Promise

Prayer after Communion (**Unison**)

**Thank you, O God, for giving us communion with our risen and glorious Lord.
Now send us out to be a sign of the new life that has come into the world;
through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Song #238

Thine Is the Glory

*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

*Song of Response #549

May the Love of the Lord

*Postlude

Trumpet Voluntary, Jeremiah Clarke

May our service be pleasing to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Through our experience with the book “Sailboat Church” we learned that prayer is crucial to being open to the power of the Holy Spirit as we follow Jesus’ call to be his body in the world. Through our experience with the book “Listen: Praying in a Noisy World” we learned there are many prayer patterns that can enhance our prayer life as we communicate with God. In response to the influence these two books are having on our congregation, **Living the Practice of Prayer**, is one way to enhance your personal prayer life while making the act of prayer a critical part of our life as a congregation. Join us Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. for an hour of focused and guided prayer as we listen for God’s voice and discern God’s will for our lives and for our congregation. We’ll gather in the Library and on Zoom beginning Tuesday, April 13.

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.

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

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).

All **church meetings**, classes, and events (including worship) held at the church are hybrid events, which means you can attend in person, or online through either YouTube or Zoom. If you are comfortable joining us in person, we welcome you! If you would rather join us from the safety and comfort of your home, we welcome you, too! The session will continue to monitor and evaluate our response to the COVID-19 pandemic in faithfulness to God and recommendations from the City-County Health Department. If you will be joining us in person, please note the following precautions the session has put in place:

- ✠ If you are not feeling well, please stay home and join us online (either on YouTube or Zoom).
- ✠ Masks are required while in the building.
- ✠ Gloves, masks, and hand sanitizer are readily available.
- ✠ Please honor social distancing, including where you sit.
- ✠ Prolonged socializing in the building is discouraged.

Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth Events

Breaking Free by Beth Moore, Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m., from April 6 to June 15. This women's Bible study draws parallels between the captive Israelites of the Old Testament and New Testament believers in Jesus as the Promised Messiah. Using the Book of Isaiah, we'll look through the lives of the kings who ruled during the prophet's ministry. These kings exemplify many of the obstacles to freedom with which we must deal. Using Scripture to help identify spiritual strongholds in our lives, no matter how big or small, we'll see that anything that hinders us from the benefits of knowing God is bondage.

Life in the Minor Key Thursdays 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., Sundays 8:15 a.m., from April 8 – July 4. This study, in parallel with Sunday worship themes, will look at the 12 books of the Bible known as “the minor prophets”. Often these books are left out of the worship lectionary rotation because of the harsh nature of the words and ideas they contain. As Israel is being devastated by war and is in the grip of idolatry, God sends these prophets to plead with Israel so they will denounce evil and turn back toward God. Amid the sorrow we find God's great grace: an unconditional love for God's people and a desire to save them from their own wickedness and the wickedness of the world around them. Through the entire Old Testament, we see the world's need for a Savior. The books of the minor prophets represent the pinnacle of that need. Alongside (and inseparable from) some of God's harshest judgments are God's greatest promises of mercy.

During the pandemic, some folks turned to cooking. Perhaps they were bored, or finally had enough time to tackle that complex recipe their mother made for special occasions, or to try out five-alarm chili or five-layer chocolate cake. That led Presbyterian Women to decide it's time for a new **church cookbook**. Between now and July 16, the women ask that you share some of your favorite recipes. Whether it's 100-year-old directions for filled cookies or newly updated Pandemic Popovers, recipes of all sorts are welcome. Submit as many as you like. There is no guarantee all will be selected, but feel free to include all you like. If the recipe has a history, or a story about why you chose it, include that, too. Paper forms for submitting recipes are available in the church office and may be returned to the church office. It is also possible to submit recipes online at morriscookbooks.com. Click on typensave, then on login (upper right corner).

User name or group login: PresbWoman1FC

Password: granola992

To type in the recipe, click on submit, edit (lower left corner), then on the next page, choose what action you want to take. That's it! The cookbooks will be ready to give as holiday gifts to friends and family. If you have questions, contact Marla Wilckens.

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

Prayer Partners Prayer requests may be made by calling Jane Snowberger (761-0518) or Marla Wilckens (452-0226).

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

COMING WORSHIP THEMES

Next Sunday, April 11, 2021

2nd Sunday of Easter

Hosea 6:1-3

Life in the Minor Key: Hosea – A Call to
Repentance

April 18, 2021

3rd Sunday of Easter

Joel 2:23-32

Life in the Minor Key: Joel – Being
Blessed After Being Blessed

April 25, 2021

4th Sunday of Easter

Amos 8:1-12

Life in the Minor Key: Amos – The Famine
of the Word of God

May 2, 2021

5th Sunday of Easter

Obadiah 1

Life in the Minor Key: Obadiah

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

Unless noted, all events are hybrid (in person and live-streamed or via Zoom)

Today, Sunday, April 4	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time (Zoom only)
Monday, April 5	9:30 a.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 2
Tuesday, April 6	12:00 noon	Souler Energy Committee
Wednesday, April 7	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:00 p.m.	Mid-week Ministry
Thursday, April 8	12:00 noon	Spiritual Life Committee
Saturday, April 10	9:30 a.m.	PW
Next Sunday, April 11	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time (Zoom only)

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

Unless noted, all events are hybrid (in person and live-streamed or via Zoom)

Tuesday, April 13.....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
	Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
	Living the Practice of Prayer Begins, 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 20.....	Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 22 – Saturday, April 24	John is on Vacation
Tuesday, April 27.....	Board of Deacons, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 4.....	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, May 6	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 8	PW, 9:30 a.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 Easter Prayer From the grave's depths, Lord Jesus Christ, you emerged, breaking the hold of sin, death and hell, that those who trust in you might share in your righteousness, life and beloved community with God the Father and all God's children. We bow in awe before your majesty, giving thanks for your grace extended so bountifully to us. By the power of your Spirit who lives within us, may we share the astonishing news of your resurrection with others, that they also may know your saving grace. Amen.