

MICAH
 "Who is like The Lord"



Judah 735-710 B.C

Israel and Judah had turned away from God to follow false prophets and religions, and disaster was coming if they did not repent. Micah reminded his audience that what God truly desired from men and women was not religious ritual, but faithful living.

6

TOTAL CHAPTERS 7

Micah 6:1-8

Life in the Minor Key: Micah

Remembering What God Requires

May 16, 2021
 7th Sunday of Easter



Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.

1315 Central Avenue
 Great Falls, Montana 59401
 (406) 453-1411

secretary@firstpresgfmt.org

www.firstpresgfmt.org

 firstpresgfmt

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*God, thank you for this day and the opportunities it offers to share your love with others.
Amen.*

“God gave us eternal life,” says the writer of 1 John, “and this life is in his Son.” (5:11, NRSV) We gather to worship the Giver of life. **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 Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 4:1-11? How did you share God’s grace with whom you finished the question, “Should God not be concerned with...?”

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

Bist du bei mir (If Thou Art with Me), J.S. Bach

Time of Silence

Welcome

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

God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.

God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Through Jesus,

our source of life,

through the Holy Spirit,

our source of power,

God calls us!

Not because of our skill or worth.

God summons us, here and now, to worship.

All because of God's great love,

We have gathered to go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of all creation.

May God teach us God's ways

so we may walk humbly with God.

*Song of Praise #1

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

*Our Confession and God's Forgiveness (Leader **People**)

How can we stand before GOD

and show proper respect to the high God?

(Micah 6:6a, The Message)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Matthew 5:3, NRSV)

Should we bring an armload of offerings

topped off with yearling calves?

(Micah 6:6b, The Message)

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

(Matthew 5:6, NRSV)

Would GOD be impressed with thousands of rams,

with buckets and barrels of olive oil?

(Micah 6:7a, The Message)

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

(Matthew 5:7, NRSV)

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

(Matthew 5:9, NRSV)

Who can survive in the temple of the Lord,
or stand in God's presence?

(1 Samuel 6:20b, NRSV)

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

(Matthew 5:8, NRSV)

Listen now, listen to GOD:

Take your stand in court,
tell the mountains;
make your case to the hills.

(Micah 6:1, The Message)

We won't give up.

We'll stick around to see what GOD will do.

We'll wait for God to make things right.

We count on God to listen to us and forgive us.

(Micah 7:7, The Message)

God's already make it plain how to live, what to do.

(Micah 6:8a, The Message)

**But we cling to the values of this world,
things that enhance our status but cheat our spirits.**

What is GOD looking for in men and women?

It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor.

(Micah 6:8b, c, The Message)

But we demand justice only when we are the ones being treated unfairly.

**We disregard the marginalized and mock the weak,
forgetting that Jesus lifted up the lowly
and made a home among the vulnerable.**

What is GOD looking for in men and women?

It's quite simple: Be compassionate and loyal in your love.

(Micah 6:8b, d, The Message)

But we refuse to help those who refuse to help themselves.

**We avoid that which makes us uncomfortable,
forgetting that Jesus comforted the sick with the touch of his hand
and was not afraid to be seen with sinners.**

What is GOD looking for in men and women?

It's quite simple: Don't take yourself too seriously – take God seriously.

(Micah 6:8b, e, The Message)

But we confuse, "walking with God" with "God walking with us".

**We seek comfort in simple answers and easy outs,
forgetting that God's blessing comes when we are persecuted for the sake
of righteousness,
and others will revile us on account of Jesus.**

**Forgive us, O God of grace and mercy,
by the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus,
and the power of your Spirit...**

(Silent Personal Prayers of Confession)

Who can compare with God,
wiping the slate clean of guilt,
turning a blind eye, a deaf ear,
to the sins of God's purged and precious people?
**God doesn't nurse anger and doesn't stay angry long,
for mercy is God's specialty. That's what God loves most.**

God's compassion is on its way to us,
because of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

**God sinks our sins
to the bottom of the ocean.**

God stays true to God's word
and continues to show compassion.

(Micah 7:18-20, The Message)

We live protected by the Peacemaker of the world!

(Micah 5:4, The Message)

*Praising God for God's Forgiveness

My Chains Are Gone (Refrain)

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

What Does the Lord Require of You

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Micah 6:1-8

Life in the Minor Key: Micah – Remembering What God Requires

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (**Unison**)

Micah 6:8

**This is what God has told us is good.
This is what the LORD requires of us:
to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God?**

*Song of Response #649

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

Giving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Moment for Ministry – VBS

Offertory

Air (from *Water Music*), G.F. Handel

Moment for Mission – Peace Place

Prayer of Dedication (Leader **People**)

We thank you, God, that you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world.

**May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love
as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation.**

Amen.

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

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 #826

Lift High the Cross

*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

Lift High the Cross, Donald Busarow

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.

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.

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

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: PresbWoman1PC

Password: butter487

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.

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

Faith Formation & Spiritual Growth Events

Breaking Free by Beth Moore, Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m., through 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. (hybrid) and 6:30 p.m. (Zoom only), and Sundays 8:15 a.m. (hybrid), from through 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.

Financial Update:	April	May to Date	Year to Date
Income	\$53,137.67	\$4,193.18	\$168,220.27
Expenses	<u>\$43,215.63</u>	<u>\$20,378.59</u>	<u>\$188,900.11</u>
Difference	\$9,922.04	(\$16,185.41)	(\$20,679.84)

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, May 23, 2021

Pentecost

A Thousand Tongues to Sing: A Service of
Songs from the Global Church

May 30, 2021

Trinity Sunday

Nahum 1-3

Life in the Minor Key: Nahum

June 6, 2021

10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Habakkuk 1-3

Life in the Minor Key: Habakkuk
Communion

June 13, 2021

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Alissa Brown will be preaching while John
is on vacation

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

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

Today, Sunday, May 16	8:15 a.m.	Life in the Minor Key: Micah
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time (Zoom only)
	11:00 a.m.	Children & Youth Ministry Committee
Monday, May 17	9:30 a.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 2
	10:00 a.m.	Souler Energy Committee
	6:30 p.m.	Breaking Free Bible Study
Tuesday, May 18	2:00 p.m.	Breaking Free Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Living the Practice of Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday, May 19	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:00 p.m.	Mid-week Ministry
Next Sunday, May 23	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time (Zoom only)
	11:00 a.m.	Children & Youth Ministry Committee

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Tuesday, May 25.....	Board of Deacons, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 27	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Tuesday, June 1	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, June 3	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 8.....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
	Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 10-Monday, June 14	John is on Vacation
Saturday, June 12	Presbytery Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, June 15.....	Session 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

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

Staff

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

Creation-Wide Praise Chorus “All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing!” These words – just one paraphrase of a text by St. Francis of Assisi – seem a fitting description of springtime, when leaves and flowers pop out afresh, birdsong is heard again and hibernating animals emerge from dens and burrows, many with new babies in tow. Psalm 148 may have served as inspiration for Francis, calling not only “young men and women alike, old and young together” (v. 12, NRSV), but also animals and birds, wind and water, mountains and trees, to praise the Lord. James L. Mays writes: “We human beings...should recognize that we are in the list with all the creation and creatures as creature and creation ourselves. We are in our obligation to praise no different from and no more than all the rest.” When you head outside on a bright spring day, notice what praise looks like in nonhuman form and how it sounds from nonhuman voices. How can we best join “all creatures of our God and King” in worship?

—Heidi Hyland Mann