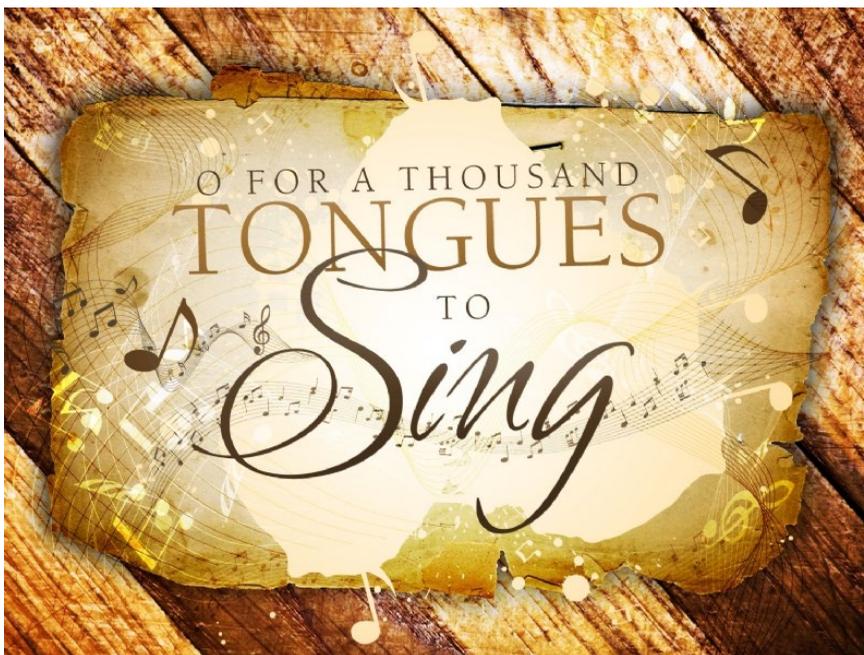


A Thousand Tongues To **Sing**: A Service of **Songs** from the Global **Church**



May 23, 2021

Pentecost Sunday



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

Breath of God, inspire us by your Word.

Fire of God, kindle in us a passion for serving others in your name.

The **Holy Spirit** called the church into being and continues to call us together. **Welcome** to worship as we celebrate the Day of **Pentecost**. 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 Micah 6:1-8? When did you promote justice in our community? Where did your acts of loving kindness bring about forgiveness and reconciliation? How did you intentionally walk humbly with 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.

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.

All **music** copied, projected, and live streamed with permission, CCLI #2716126, OneLicense A-722348.

Today's **worship** is adapted from *Reformed Worship: Resources for Planning and Leading Worship*, March 2012, Number 103.

If you are comfortable standing, please do so when you see an asterisk "*". There are **hearing enhancement** devices and **large print** bulletins available from the ushers. Please join us after the service for **fellowship** downstairs in the Social Hall.

*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!

A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

Reading of the **Pentecost** Story

Acts 2:1-42

Time of Silence

Welcome

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

Revelation 7:9-10

I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Today our voices join this ongoing heavenly hymn of praise.

In the name of Jesus and with the power of the **Spirit, we worship God.**

*Opening **Hymn**

*O, For A Thousand Tongues To **Sing***

*England – This **hymn** is one of Charles Wesley’s best known. He wrote it to celebrate the 11th anniversary of his spiritual conversion. The original **hymn** has 18 stanzas and was entitled “For the Anniversary Day of One’s Conversion.” It is a classic **hymn** that has been translated into many languages, as it calls us to worship God in whatever language we speak – a heavenly vision. (see Revelation 5)*

God’s Greeting

1 Corinthians 1:2-3

Song of Response

Clap Your Hands

*Yoruba – This energetic Yoruba folk tune is matched with a text from Psalm 47. The result is a jubilant **song** of praise appropriate for processions, opening of worship, or Ascension Day. The cyclical nature of the text allows for repeats, which can be encouraged by a call-and-response style cantor.*

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:1-7...Imitating Christ’s Humility

Song

In The Heavens Shone A Star

Philippines – The melody comes from the Kilinga people who live in northern Luzon, the largest island in the Philippines. The collaboration of a Philippine linguist and an American missionary, the text gives an account of Jesus’ birth as it collapses time and brings shepherds and magi to Jesus’ manger; it then asks us to follow them and look on with awe.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:8

Song

Holy Gift of Love

Mongolia – While Mongolia is known for its throat-singing tradition, popular music styles are also embraced. This song was originally recorded as a heavy-metal rock ballad with a horse-head fiddle solo! The beautiful redemption story makes it appropriate for communion, Lent, or as a sung testimony.

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication (Leader People)

God of mercy,

we give you thanks for all that your bounty creates.

**The gifts we bring today acknowledge our debt to you
and our intent to relieve others of their burdens.**

Bless what we offer

and bless those who will be shown deeds of power through them.

In the name of Jesus,

and with the power of the Holy Spirit,

Amen.

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2:9-11

*Songs

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

Tanzania – This joyful resurrection narrative deserves a place alongside classic Easter story songs as it blends 20th Century words with a traditional melody. In African call-and-response practice, the stanzas would ordinarily be sung by a soloist or small group and the refrain by the whole congregation. This is one of the first African hymns to receive widespread attention. After being translated into English and German in 1969, it was later made available in many other languages and is now sung in Christian churches around the world. The tune, Mfurahini, Haleluya, comes from the Haya people in northwestern Tanzania and is Swahili for “Rejoice, Alleluia.”

Jesus Is Lord

Calling to mind Romans 10:9, Philippians 2:10, and Romans 14:11, this song is appropriate for Ascension Sunday, communion, Lent, profession of faith, or as a hymn of response. It presents a solid Christology in pop ballad form.

Profession of Our Faith

The Second Helvetic Confession 5.125...

What Is The Church? & Citizens of One Commonwealth

The Church is an assembly of the faithful called or gathered out of the world; a communion, we say, of all saints, namely, of those who truly know and rightly worship and serve the true God in Christ the Savior, by the Word and **Holy Spirit, and who by faith are partakers of all benefits which are freely offered through Christ. They are all citizens of the one city, living under the same Lord, under the same laws, and in the same fellowship of all good things. For the apostle calls them “fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”, calling the faithful on earth saints, who are sanctified by the blood of the Son of God. The article of the Creed, “I believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,” is to be understood wholly as concerning these saints. (Ephesians 2:19, 1 Corinthians 4:1)**

Song

Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand

*Kenya – A reworking of “On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand,” Kenyans **sing** this “heart **song**” both as a folk/pop ballad and in a more upbeat a cappella style.*

Profession of Our Faith

The Second Helvetic Confession 5.126...

Only One Church For All Times & The Catholic Church

And since there is always but one God, and there is one mediator between God and people, Jesus the Messiah, and one Shepherd of the whole flock, one Head of this body, and, to conclude, one **Spirit, one salvation, one faith, one Testament or covenant, it necessarily follows that there is only one Church. We, therefore, call this Church catholic because it is universal, scattered through all parts of the world, and extended unto all times, and is not limited to any times or places.**

Song of Response

All Along

*Russia – One usually thinks of the Russian Orthodox tradition when considering Russian church **music**, but “All Along” comes from an evangelical strain of the Russian faith. **Sing** it like the heartfelt testimony of salvation that it is!*

Prayers of the People

For the earth and its riches...

For nations, communities, and families torn by violence...

For all people who are victims of injustice...

Song

For The Troubles

*Brazil – This **sung** prayer follows the biblical tradition of lament, with complaints of injustice followed by prayers of trust.*

For the Church...

For our community of faith...

For all the saints...

Song

Abana In Heaven

*Lebanon – This moving setting of the Lord’s Prayer is **sung** by Christians throughout the Arabic world. “Abana” is Arabic for father and rhymes with banana.*

In thanksgiving...

Song

Lift Me, Jesus

*Yoruba – This simple cry of the heart can be used to punctuate prayer (“Hear me, Jesus”), accompany healing services, or combine in medley with other **songs** of prayer and lament.*

Scripture Reading

from 1 Corinthians 11

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Song

We Are Coming, Lord, to the Table

*Sierra Leone – Unlike syncopated rhythms in the pop/rock/jazz traditions, the syncopations in this **song** from Sierra Leone should be quite smooth. In Sierra Leone this song accompanies a procession to the front of the church with the communion elements.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer (**Unison**) (Matthew 6:9-13, The Message)

Our Father in heaven,

Reveal who you are.

Set the world right;

Do what's best—

as above, so below.

Keep us alive with three square meals.

Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.

Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.

You're in charge!

You can do anything you want!

You're ablaze in beauty!

Yes. Yes. Yes.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Communion of God's People

Prayer after Communion (**Unison**)

God of wind, rain, silence and flame —

We came to this table hungry;

hungry for a **Pentecost experience,**

where you will fall down like rain and we will know that we are yours.

We came to this table hungry

for the unity promised in the **Pentecost story,**

a unity that can bind us together in a cord that is stronger than our differences.

We came to this table hungry,

for a glimpse of your kingdom,

so we should have known you'd be here.

For once again,

you have met us at this table with manna and mustard seeds,

with the bread of life and with vines and branches.

**God of wind, rain, silence and flame —
when we go out into the world
and again find ourselves hungry for something better,
remind us of this meal.**

**Remind us how we came to this table hungry,
and how you met us in this ordinary bread and ordinary cup,
to claim us,
bind our wandering hearts together,
and remind us of your coming day.**

**In your name we give praise,
and in your name we pray.**

Amen.

***Closing Song**

Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord

This simple hymn of praise fits comfortably next to songs such as “Seek Ye First.” Based on Psalm 9:1-2 this song was created in August 1975 for a morning devotional of the Troubadours of Hope, a group touring the picturesque high Alps. Later it was incorporated into their programs and soon spread throughout Europe and the world, being translated into many languages.

***Closing Prayer**

Loving and faithful God,

we bless you for calling us to be a holy people,

living for you in service to each other for the sake of your world.

We pray that our congregation will experience a rich and free sharing of the gifts you have generously given us.

Knowing that we are called to be saints,

we humbly ask that you will work powerfully through us

to accomplish your purposes in the world.

We long for your Spirit’s power

to make us more like Jesus in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

We pray in the name of Jesus,

the author and finisher of our faith,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God,

now and forever.

Amen.

***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.**

***Spoken Blessing**

***Sung Blessing**

May The Love Of The Lord

*China – This tender benediction has a lullaby-like charm. The **tune**, Soon Ti, was created to be a lullaby and is named for the son of the composer and means “pure knowledge of God”. The infant stopped breathing at one day old but was revived by the prompt actions of nurses. The thankful mother wrote the English version of the Aaronic blessing (see Numbers 6:24-26).*

***Song of Response**

Praise To The Lord, The Almighty

*Like many great **hymns**, this **song** is firmly based on the psalms, especially Psalm 150, a psalm of praise, and Psalm 103, which praises the God who “heals all your diseases”. (Psalm 103:3)*

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, depending on the event. Please respect the comfort and safety level of others, including honoring social distancing, including where you sit.

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: PresbyWomen1PC

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.

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	\$12,877.18	\$176,904.27
Expenses	<u>\$43,215.63</u>	<u>\$36,212.42</u>	<u>\$204,733.94</u>
Difference	\$9,922.04	(\$23,335.24)	(\$27,829.67)

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, 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

June 20, 2021

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Zephaniah 1-3
 Life in the Minor Key: Zephaniah

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

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

Today, Sunday, May 23	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:00 a.m.	Children & Youth Ministry Committee
Monday, May 24	9:30 a.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 2
	6:30 p.m.	Breaking Free Bible Study
Tuesday, May 25	2:00 p.m.	Breaking Free Bible Study
	5:30 p.m.	Living the Practice of Prayer
	6:30 p.m.	Board of Deacons
Wednesday, May 26	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:00 p.m.	Mid-week Ministry
Thursday, May 27	10:00 a.m.	Life in the Minor Key: Nahum
	12:00 noon	Spiritual Life Committee
	6:30 p.m.	Life in the Minor Key: Nahum (Zoom only)
Next Sunday, May 30	8:15 a.m.	Life in the Minor Key: Nahum
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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.
Tuesday, June 22	Board of Deacons, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 24	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

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
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 Shared Experience What comes to mind when you hear the word *Pentecost*? Many people think of a mighty wind, tongues of **fire** and multiple languages. But Acts 2 begins with another detail that's just as key: Jesus' disciples "were all together in one place." Because they were together physically and spiritually, the early believers didn't miss the life-changing, world-changing birth of the Church. The pandemic, while changing our definition of gathering, also highlighted our need for interaction. If Jesus' first followers hadn't been assembled on **Pentecost**, they would've missed the outpouring of God's power and the indescribable joy God had for them. Think about what believers today might miss if we neglect to worship with other friends of Christ. Who would want to miss God's blessings, promises and joy?