



Malachi 3:1-4

Life in the Minor Key: Malachi

The Coming Messenger

July 11, 2021

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.

1315 Central Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59401
(406) 453-1411
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www.firstpresgfmt.org

 firstpresgfmt

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*“The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.” (Psalm 24:1, NIV)
On this midsummer day, we can’t help but rejoice in God’s creation!*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is a joy to gather with you for worship! Please take a moment to **greet** those around you in the name of the Lord. 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 Zechariah? When did God use you to help others move away from their trapped life toward life?

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, CSPL 104723.

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!

GATHERING BEFORE GOD

Gathering Music

*Come, Now is the Time to Worship
God of Wonders
God You Reign*

Time of Silence

Welcome

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

Come, let us worship God

with the passion and joy of King David and all the people
who sang and danced before the ark of the covenant.

**We have come to worship the Lord
with the songs of praise and thanksgiving.**

***Song of Praise**

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

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

God-of-the-Angel-Armies says, "Count on it: The day is coming, raging like a forest fire. All the arrogant people who do evil things will be burned up like stove wood, burned to a crisp, nothing left but scorched earth and ash—a black day.

But for us, who seek God's forgiveness and restoration, there will be sunrise!

The sun of righteousness will dawn on those who honor the name of God, healing radiating from its wings.

We who seek God's forgiveness and restoration, will burst with energy, like colts frisky and frolicking.

Malachi 4:1-3, The Message, adapted

Let us confession our sins before God and one another...

Eternal God,

we confess that we resist your holy realm.

You come with fire to cleanse us,

yet we remain in our corruption.

You come with water to save us,

yet we persist in our sin.

Forgive us,

God of grace.

Prepare the way in us to greet the one who is coming,

so that we may see your salvation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord...

(Silent Personal Prayers of Confession)

This is the message from the mouth of GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies:

“Look! I’m sending my messenger on ahead to clear the way for me. Suddenly, out of the blue, the Leader you’ve been looking for will enter his Temple—yes, the Messenger of the Covenant, the one you’ve been waiting for. Look! He’s on his way!”

But who will be able to stand up to that coming?

The coming Leader will be like white-hot fire from the smelter’s furnace. He’ll be like the strongest lye soap at the laundry. He’ll take his place as a refiner of silver, as a cleanser of dirty clothes.

Who can survive his appearance?

This is the Good News of God’s forgiveness:

**Jesus has scrubbed us clean,
refined us like gold and silver.**

Because of the death and resurrection of Jesus,
we are once again fit and pleasing to God.

We are fit for GOD,

fit to present our lives as offerings of righteousness to God.

This is what the GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies says:

“You’re mine, all mine.”

Malachi 3:1-4, 17, The Message, adapted

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

Forever

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Malachi 3:1-4

Life in the Minor Key: Malachi – The Coming Messenger

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (Leader **People**)

A Brief Statement of Faith, 11.4, adapted

In a broken and fearful world

the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Jesus as Lord and Savior,

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,

to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,

and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Jesus in our daily tasks

and to live holy and joyful lives,

even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,

praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

*Song of Response

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Commissioning of VBS Leaders and Volunteers

Giving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Offertory

Give Thanks

Prayer of Dedication (Leader **People**)

God of all righteousness,

receive these gifts of gratitude,

and the very offerings of our lives.

Purify them with your refining fire;

may we serve your purposes and shine with your glory.

In the name of Jesus

and with the power of the Spirit

we pray,

Amen.

Prayers of the People 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.

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Song

Soon and Very Soon

*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

*Sending Music

Gavotte, G.F. Handel

May our service be pleasing to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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).

Financial Update:	June	July to Date	Year to Date
Income	\$16,927.51	\$1,443.05	\$210,854.40
Expenses	\$37,691.96	\$15,039.59	\$263,994.89
Difference	(\$20,764.45)	(\$13,596.54)	(\$53,140.49)

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

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 and potentially wearing a mask. Also, if you are not feeling well, please stay home and join us online (either on YouTube or Zoom).

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.

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: PresbWomen1PC

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.

COMING WORSHIP THEMES

Next Sunday, July 18, 2021

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
VBS Celebration

August 1, 2021

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Communion

July 25, 2021

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Beth McCaw, Presbytery Leader for
Glacier Presbytery, will be preaching while
John is on study leave

August 8, 2021

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

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

Today, Sunday, July 11	8:15 a.m.	Life in the Minor Key – Malachi Bible Study
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
Monday, July 12		John is on vacation through July 31
	9:30 a.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 2
	5:30 p.m.	VBS
Tuesday, July 13	5:30 p.m.	VBS
Wednesday, July 14	10:00 a.m.	River Readers
	5:30 p.m.	VBS
Thursday, July 15	5:30 p.m.	VBS
Friday, July 16	5:30 p.m.	VBS
Saturday, July 17	8:00 a.m.	PW Garage Sale @ Toni Larson's
	3:00 p.m.	VBS Picnic
Next Sunday, July 18	10:00 a.m.	Worship – VBS Celebration
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
	11:30 a.m.	Children & Youth Ministries Committee

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Now through Saturday, July 31	John is on Vacation
Thursday, July 22.....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Monday, July 26.....	Prayer Partners, 1:30 p.m.
Tuesday, July 27	Board of Deacons, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 3	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, August 5.....	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 10	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
	Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, August 13 – Sunday, August 15.....	Presbytery of Glacier PW Retreat

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 Pfof	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

Friendly Signposts We need friends. Friends guide us, care for us, confront us in love, console us in times of pain. Although we speak of “making friends,” friends cannot be made. Friends are free gifts from God. But God gives us the friends we need when we need them if we fully trust in God’s love. Friends cannot replace God. They have limitations and weaknesses like we have. Their love is never faultless, never complete. But in their limitations they can be signposts on our journey towards the unlimited and unconditional love of God. Let’s enjoy the friends whom God has sent on our way.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*