

# Psalm 130

## Waiting for Divine Redemption



August 8, 2021  
19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.firstpresgfmt.org)





## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*O Bread of Life, feed us today. Nourish our souls with your grace so we may share your love with the world.*

Jesus invites all with these words: “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35) **Welcome** to worship. 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 Psalm 51:1-17? When did you honestly face your sin and seek God’s forgiveness and renewal? How did you share this good news with someone else?

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

Prelude

*Aus tiefer Not schrei' ich zu Dir (Psalm 130), Flor Peeters*

Time of Silence

Welcome

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

Psalm 130, adapted, The Message

Listen.

Do you hear it?

**The love of Jesus is poured out for us.**

Listen.

Do you hear it?

**The cloud of the faithful is singing God's praise.**

Listen.

Do you hear it?

**The Spirit is calling us to worship.**

As we gather on this holy day,  
we pray to have the posture of servants of God:

**for openness,**

**so we may be surprised by God's grace;**

**for humility,**

**so we may be changed by Christ's compassion;**

**for discernment,**

**so we may hear the Spirit calling us;**

**for courage,**

**so we may take the steps to answer.**

Magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt God's name together.

**We are here to worship the Living God,  
the One who is our reason for praise.**

\*Song of Praise #772

*Live into Hope*

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

In the midst of our sin,  
we wait for the Lord,  
who is our hope.

**In the midst of darkness,  
we watch for God more passionately than for the sun's first light!**

If God kept track of sins,  
who would stand a chance?

**With God, there is:**

**Forgiveness.**

**Steadfast love.**

**Great power to redeem.**

Because of such great mercy,  
God is ready to forgive  
all the ways we fail to live in faithfulness.

Relying on that mercy,  
let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**May God hear our request for mercy...**

O God of steadfast love,

**we do indeed cry out to you from the depths of our busy and stressful lives.**

We wait in your presence, O Holy One,

**listening in the silence of these moments...**

In you, Holy Lord,

we are given salvation and wholeness.

You have called us to struggle against evil in this world,

**but instead we struggle for success and for power.**

You have called us to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

**but we keep it to ourselves,**

**for fear of being judged.**

**Hear our confession with the mercy only you can offer...**

We carry the worries of so many  
and forget that you will carry all our burdens.  
**Forgive our failure to entrust everything to you...**

We rely on our own abilities  
instead of trusting you.  
**Forgive us,  
and turn our hearts and minds to you...**

Clothe us in your  
strength,  
peace,  
and faith.

**Wash us in your mercy,  
and make us imitators of your compassion.**

We humbly offer these prayers  
**in the name of Jesus  
and with the power of the Spirit...**

*(Silent Personal Prayers of Confession)*

The Master has heard our cries for help,  
and our cries for mercy. (Psalm 130, adapted, The Message)

**If GOD, kept records on wrongdoings,  
who would stand a chance?**

Our lives are on the line before God, our Lord.  
And it turns out, that forgiveness is God's habit.

**With GOD comes love,  
and generous redemption.**

God has redeemed us,  
and bought us back from captivity to sin.

**And so,  
we worship  
and give thanks to God,  
for God's forgiveness and renewal of life.**

## HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

*Out of the Depths (Psalm 130)*, Martin Luther/J.S. Bach

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Psalm 130  
Waiting for Divine Redemption

## RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

\*Song of Response #832

*Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand*

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

*Aria in F Major (from 12<sup>th</sup> Concerto Grosso)*, G.F. Handel

Prayer of Dedication (Leader **People**)

In the spirit of faith, Great God,  
we thank you for the opportunity

**to give your tithes and our offerings,  
to participate in extending your grace to more and more people,  
and to give all glory to you.**

**Amen.**

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

**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 #35

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*

\*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

*Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty*, Arr. Diane Bish

*May our service be pleasing to God!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **flowers** are in memory of E. Lorene Burks.

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

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).

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

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).



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

<b>Financial Update:</b>	July	August to Date	Year to Date
Income	\$13,615.07	\$1,630.00	\$224,656.42
Expenses	<u>\$42,903.41</u>	<u>\$11,397.16</u>	<u>\$303,255.87</u>
Difference	(\$29,288.34)	(\$9,767.16)	(\$78,599.45)

Following Jesus is a lifelong journey where we learn and do what Jesus said and did. It takes more than the head, checking off boxes of belief. It even takes more than the heart, feeling deeply about another person or a cause. Following Jesus is about these things and more. It is also about doing. And it takes practice. And practice. And more practice. We are not practicing for perfection, however, but practicing to put faith and love into action. As we explore faith practices, we are diving into the essence of what makes us Christian, those who follow the one who practiced what he preached! ***Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living*** is a congregation wide curriculum, helping people of all ages follow Jesus. This study is for lifelong Christians and those beginning to ask questions. Each unit centers around something Jesus told his followers to do. In each unit, aspects of the practice are explored; biblical stories illustrate them and how the Christian community has understood them through more than two thousand years. More important, there are ample opportunities for us to practice these actions, both individually and in community. Followers of Jesus were attracted to him because of his actions: he welcomed everyone, he spoke truth to power, and he invited all to follow him to God. It was later, after following him, that some came to believe he was indeed the Messiah, God’s messenger, the Christ. Faith develops as we practice following what Jesus did, embodied, and taught. Beginning in September, as a congregation, we will be looking at these biblical practices for faithful living as we follow Jesus. This endeavor will help form our worship, adult education classes, children and youth education classes, even some congregation events. The first biblical practice is “Follow Jesus”. We will focus on Accepting Jesus’ Invitation, Following with the Community of Other Disciples, Learning to See Everything Through the Lens of Love, and Following Jesus in the Making of Disciples. Stay tuned for more information.

In preparation for World Communion Sunday, October 3, 2021, we are preparing a list of everyone’s ancestral nationality. Please let the office know from which country your **ancestors** came.

For those of you who have inquired, while on **study leave**, John worked on becoming familiar with the Follow Me material, including mapping out worship themes which will begin in September.

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).

## **COMING WORSHIP THEMES**

**Next Sunday, August 15, 2021**

20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 111

Praise for God’s Wonderful Works

**August 22, 2021**

21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 84

The Lovely Dwelling Place

**August 29, 2021**

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 15

Abiding in God’s Sanctuary

**September 5, 2021**

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

John 1:35–51

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:  
Follow Jesus – Accept Jesus’ Invitation  
Communion

## MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

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

Today, Sunday, August 8	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
Monday, August 9	9:30 a.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 2
	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Partners
Tuesday, August 10	4:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
	5:30 p.m.	Property Committee
Friday, August 13 – Sunday, August 15		Presbytery of Glacier PW Retreat
Next Sunday, August 15	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Monday, August 16.....	Nominating Committee, 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, August 17 .....	Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, August 24 .....	Board of Deacons Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, August 26.....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Saturday, August 28.....	End of Summer Party @ KOA
Sunday, August 29 .....	Ministry Fair & Potluck Lunch, 11:00 a.m.
Monday, August 30.....	Beth Moore's "Breathe" Bible Study Begins, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 1 .....	Men's Group, 7:00 a.m.
Thursday, September 2 .....	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Monday, September 6 .....	Office Closed for Labor Day
Tuesday, September 7 .....	Souler Energy 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**

John Ritchie (Moderator)

Ginger Blevins  
Alissa Brown  
Mary Fagenstrom

Randy Houtz (Clerk)  
Sharon Lindstrom  
Gary McFerrin

Scott Royce  
Jane Snowberger  
Jennie Yates

**Deacons**

Bruce Buer (Mod.)  
Kitty Cornwell  
Shirley Davis

Barb Flaherty  
Tom Hazen

Dave Herman  
Chris Pfof

Deb Skinner  
Marla Wilckens

**Staff**

Rev. John E Ritchie, Pastor (906-322-9490)  
Alissa Brown, CE Director  
Joan Schmidt, Ministry of Music  
Craig Anton, Facilities Manager  
Keyna Myers, Office Manager  
Faith Janes, Publications Secretary

Liza Nosich, Accounts Payable/Payroll  
Financial Secretary  
Butch Steele, Worship Video Coordinator  
Alex Rosenleaf, Choir Director  
Kari Rosenleaf, Bell Choir Director  
Johnny Ritchie, Music Assistant & Praise Band  
Director

**Forecast: 100% goodness** While Stan Purdum pastored an Ohio church in 1988, the region suffered a major drought. Congregants who were farmers saw their fields – and livelihoods – dry up and die. “I was impressed that they didn’t stop attending church and kept giving offerings,” he says. “A cynic might respond, ‘Well, the farmers don’t want to offend God and cause him to withhold more rain.’ But I concluded, ‘Look at their remarkable faith.’” During the drought, Purdum gave a sermon about Elijah challenging the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-40). “Like Elijah, we need to hold on to our belief in God’s goodness,” he preached. “God will again send rain on our land. We will continue to pray for it. Perhaps it’s too late for this year’s crop, and we need to care for the people affected. But we do so while maintaining our faith in God’s providence.”