

Psalm 84

The Lovely Dwelling Place



August 22, 2021
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.

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



PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“Lord...you have the words of eternal life. [We] have come to believe...that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:68-69, NIV)

We **rejoice** that you have joined us today! Let us worship God together: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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 111? When did your worship praise the Lord? How did you study of God’s word praise the Lord? Where did your actions praise the Lord?

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

Allegro Maestoso (from *The Water Music*), G.F. Handel

Time of Silence

Welcome

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

(Psalm 84, adapted)

Come,

to the lovely dwelling place of the LORD of hosts!

We come into the courts of the LORD,

with longing and fainting souls,

with hearts and bodies singing for joy!

Come,

before the LORD of hosts

where even the sparrow and the swallow
find a home.

We are happiest

when we dwell with our King,

forever singing praise to our God!

Come,

to where there is strength,

to where there are springs and pools of life.

We find strength to come,

knowing we will see God in God's dwelling place.

Come,

with all your prayers.

We come,

assured God will hear and consider all we say.

One day,

here,

in the dwelling place of God

is better than a thousand anywhere else.

We have come,

assured of happiness

because the LORD God bestows upon us

favor and honor.

*Song of Praise #22

God of the Sparrow

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

Let us confess our sins
to the One whose eyes are open day and night
so that our cries and our prayers will be heard...

**O God,
our Sun and our Shield,
we find ourselves far from you,
in bondage to our worst fears and impulses.**

**Too often,
we live in the valley and shadows
hiding with our sin
rather than in the high hills of hope
where your light abounds
and sin has no place to hide.**

**We attempt to build our own dwelling places,
forgetting that your dwelling place is by far the best of all.**

**Lift us up, O God,
and keep us from sinking away from all that is good and worthy.**

**With Jesus as our hope,
we stand at the gates of your sanctuary
seeking forgiveness and a fresh, clean start.**

**Forgive us for our mistaken priorities
and make us whole.**

**Restore in us
the sense of your favor and honor
and your ultimate claim upon our lives.**

**Hear our prayer, O Lord God Almighty;
listen to us, O God of Jacob...**

(Psalm 84:8, NIV, adapted)

(Silent Personal Prayers of Confession)

The Living God hears our cry
and forgives our sin!

The Lord God is a sun and shield,
**the LORD bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does God withhold
from those whose walk is blameless.**

**Blessed are those
who trust in the LORD Almighty.**

(Psalm 84:11-12, NIV, adapted)

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings, Samuel Liddle

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Psalm 84
The Lovely Dwelling Place

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Song of Response #36

For the Fruit of All Creation

Giving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Offertory

Sonata in D Major, Domenico Scarlatti

Prayer of Dedication (Leader **People**)

Almighty God,

we dedicate ourselves to serve you,
for you alone are our God.

Receive, O God, the gifts we offer,

and with these gifts accept the offering of our lives;

through Jesus

and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 #307

God of Grace and God of 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

*Postlude

God of Grace, Paul Manz

May our service be pleasing to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tithes and Offerings may be mailed to the church office or made online through our website, 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. Direct links to upcoming live streams can be found on our website and in the weekly Saturday morning email. If for some reason, the live stream fails, we will establish a new stream connection. Return to our YouTube channel home page to find the new link.

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).

Pictorial Directory We are beginning to organize an inhouse production of an updated pictorial directory. To help us, please send us an individual picture of everyone in your household, as well as a group picture. If you prefer, we can arrange for someone to take the pictures at the church, or in your home.

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.

Financial Update:	July	August to Date	Year to Date
Income	\$16,553.84	\$17,539.47	\$243,504.66
Expenses	<u>\$40,511.75</u>	<u>\$21,386.80</u>	<u>\$310,853.85</u>
Difference	(\$23,957.91)	(\$3,847.33)	(\$67,349.19)

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.

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

August 29, 2021

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 15

Abiding in God's Sanctuary

September 5, 2021

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

John 1:35–51

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:

Follow Jesus – Accept Jesus' Invitation

Communion

September 12, 2021

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:

Follow Jesus – Follow with the Community
of Other Disciples

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

Ephesians 4:11–16

Alissa will be preaching while John is on
Vacation

September 19, 2021

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:

Follow Jesus – Learn to See Everything
Through the Lens of Love

Luke 24:28–34

Alissa 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, August 22	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
Monday, August 23	9:30 a.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 2
	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Partners
Tuesday, August 24	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Board of Deacons
Thursday, August 26	12:00 noon	Spiritual Life Committee
Saturday, August 28	11:00 a.m.	End of Summer Party @ KOA
Next Sunday, August 29	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Ministry Fair & Potluck Lunch

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Monday, August 30.	Beth Moore's "Here and Now, There and Then" 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
Friday, September 10 – Monday, September 20	.....	John is on Vacation
Sunday, September 12	.....	Seeking God Together Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, September 14	.....	Finance Committee 4:00 p.m.
		Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 15	.....	Midweek Ministry's BBQ Kick-Off, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 19	.....	Children & Youth Ministries Committee, 11:30 a.m.
		Presbytery of Glacier's Matthew 25 Retreat, 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday, September 21	.....	Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, September 23	.....	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

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

All of Me Late in his life, Salvation Army founder William Booth was asked to explain how and why God had used him so mightily. His response: “God has had all there was of me. There have been men with greater brains than I, men with greater opportunities, but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart and the vision of what Jesus Christ could do with the poor of London, I made up my mind that God would have all of William Booth there was.”