

Psalm 15

Abiding in God's Sanctuary



August 29, 2021
22nd 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

*Holy Spirit, weave a fabric of justice to cover the world,
using us as threads of your love and mercy.*

Life is full of ups and downs, twists and turns, but with God's love "there is no variation or shadow due to change." Let us **worship** the "Father of lights." (James 1:17) 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 84? Where did you walk with God? How did you find refuge and strength in the living God? Where did your actions praise the Lord? When did you exclaim: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you!" (Psalm 84:1, 12)

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

*Draw Me Close
Heart of Worship
Above All*

Time of Silence

Welcome

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

We gather to worship,
in the presence of God,
as if we stood on God's holy hill.

Holy God,
you invite us to come to worship you.

**In your Holy Presence,
we discover
unlimited love.**

We gather to worship,
as children of God,
as if we were standing in the waters of grace.

Holy God,
you invite us to come to worship you.

**In your Holy Presence,
we discover
forgiveness.**

We gather to worship,
the living God,
for God is here among us.

Holy God,
you invite us to come to worship you.

**In your Holy Presence,
we discover
empowerment,
joy,
and peace.**

With our words and in our actions,
we will praise the living God.
With our lips and in our lives,
we will glorify the Lord.
Let us worship God.

*Song of Praise

Lord, Who May Dwell Within Your House

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

Who gets invited to dinner at God's place?

Those who:

**Walk straight,
act right,
tell the truth.**

How do we get on God's guest list?

**Don't hurt your friend,
don't blame your neighbor;
despise the despicable.**

How can we never be blacklisted by God?

**Keep our word even when it costs us,
make an honest living,
never take a bribe.**

(Psalm 15, adapted, The Message)

But, honestly,

is that how we really live and act?

**Trusting in God's mercy to forgive,
with sincere hearts and minds,
we confess our sins before God and the world...**

O Lord,

so often we stumble on the path of faith.

**The truth makes us nervous,
and we pretend not to know what is right.**

**We take pride in what we bring to you as our offering,
believing what little we give
equates to all you give to us.**

**Forgive us,
for those times**

**when our worship has been inadequate,
when our prayers are hollow,
when we fail to act in love,
when avoid having to show compassion,
when we neglect to nurture those in need,
and when we sing to you our thanks and praises,
yet we lack conviction in living out our faith.**

We do not deserve to be in your dwelling place.

Have mercy,

O God.

Save us from our foolishness.

**Convict us by your wisdom,
cleanse us by your grace,
challenge us by your presence,
and, by your forgiveness,
free us to try again...**

(Silent Personal Prayers of Confession)

Because we are not worthy to enter God's dwelling,
God came to dwell with us,
through the body and being of God's Son, Jesus.

**Jesus came to be with us,
amongst us,
and for us.**

God hears the difficult truths we have named aloud
and in the silence of our hearts.

Hear the good news of the Gospel:

in Jesus,

we are forgiven!

Alleluia!

The wonderful gift of God's forgiveness
flow through us.

The abundance of God's mercy and grace
sets us free to serve God with love.

Thanks be to God!

Amen!

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

Sanctuary

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Psalm 15
Abiding in God's Sanctuary

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Song of Response

Blest are They

Giving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Offertory

Seek Ye First

Prayer of Dedication (Leader **People**)

O God,

receive these gifts for the work of your church.

With these gifts we dedicate ourselves

to live in the truth of your word,

and follow your commandments with sincere hearts;

through Jesus our Lord.

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

Praise to 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

With our words and in our actions,
we will praise the living God.
With our lips and in our lives,
we will glorify the Lord.
Let us serve God.

*Sending Music

Sanctuary

May our service be pleasing to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Following Jesus Together” An Intergenerational Event On Wednesday, September 1 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. we'll kick off our *Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living* with an intergenerational event, including dinner. We, of all ages, will explore the ways that Jesus calls us to follow him, and we'll discover how his call leads us to love God and neighbor more fully. Come and join us as we share, learn, eat, and have fun together.

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.

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.

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.

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

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).

Financial Update:	July	August to Date	Year to Date
Income	\$16,553.84	\$20,914.47	\$246,879.66
Expenses	<u>\$40,511.75</u>	<u>\$21,386.80</u>	<u>\$310,853.85</u>
Difference	(\$23,957.91)	(\$472.33)	(\$63,974.19)

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

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

Deuteronomy 6:4–9

Ephesians 4:11–16

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:
Follow Jesus – Follow with the Community
of Other Disciples
Alissa will be preaching while John is on
Vacation

September 19, 2021

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 24:28–34

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:
Follow Jesus – Learn to See Everything
Through the Lens of Love
Alissa will be preaching while John is on
Vacation

September 26, 2021

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 28:18-20

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:
Follow Jesus – Follow Jesus in the Making
of Disciples

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

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

Today, Sunday, August 29	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Ministry Fair & Potluck Lunch
Monday, August 30	9:30 a.m.	Sailboat Church Crew 2
	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Partners
	6:30 p.m.	Beth Moore's "Here and Now, There and Then" Bible Study
Tuesday, August 31	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee
Wednesday, September 1	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:00 p.m.	"Following Jesus Together" an Intergenerational Event
Thursday, September 2	10:00 a.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class
	5:00 p.m.	Worship Committee
	6:30 p.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class
Next Sunday, September 5	8:15 a.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class
	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)

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	Joint Session/Board of Deacons 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	Randy Houtz (Clerk)	Scott Royce
Alissa Brown	Sharon Lindstrom	Jane Snowberger
Mary Fagenstrom	Gary McFerrin	Jennie Yates

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 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	

A Prayer About Slowing Down

God beyond time...teach us to pause in this moment,
to tuck ourselves into the curve of your slow arm,
that we may know the miracle of now,
the gift of this moment:
you beside and beyond us,
welcoming us outside of all we measure,
and standing with us in it.
May we see the goodness of our still hours and days,
sunrises, sunsets,
and the darkness where our rest is found.

—Micha Boyett in *A Rhythm of Prayer* (edited by Sarah Bessey)