

Genesis 1:1-2:25

Leviticus 19:33-34

**Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:
Welcome All – Welcome Others as
God Welcomes You**



October 3, 2021

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

World Communion Sunday



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 firstpresgfmt

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

We are so grateful, dear Jesus, that as you did with the little children who came to you, you take us in your loving arms, lay your hands on us and bless us.

Welcome to worship this early October weekend! It's an honor to have you with us today. 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 Matthew 28:18-20? When did you move out to make disciples? What nations did you go to? What did you learn from Jesus as you taught others about Jesus? How were you comforted by the assurance that Jesus is with you?

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, CSPL 104723.

All scripture passages quoted or refereed to are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), unless noted.

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 worship 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

Siyahamba, Arr. Hal Hopson (Zulu)

Time of Silence

Welcome

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

Jesus is here,
and all are welcome!

Come,
the lights are on!
The leaders are ready!
The people are ready!

Jesus is here,
and all are welcome!

Come,
set aside your distractions,
sit,
and breathe deeply.

Jesus is here,
and all are welcome!

Come,
with spirits ready to laugh and sing,
with hearts ready to rest and listen.

This is the day
the Lord has made.

We rejoice
and are glad to be here!

God made the world
and welcomed us in it.

And so,
we welcome all as well.

*Song of Praise #399

God Welcomes All (South Africa)

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

Creation displays the glory of God,

but our sin keeps us from rejoicing in the love God reveals.

Yet Jesus,

the Son of God

carried our sins to the cross.

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven,

who no longer suffer in silence,

but name their sin

and seek God's grace...

Psalm 32:1-5

Creator God,

you breathed,

and this world and all that is in it came into being.

You created us

to live in relationship with you,

to love and serve one another,

and to care for all your creatures.

Yet, in the hardness of our hearts,

we dismiss your commandments

and seek to go our separate ways.

Forgive us

when we treat your creation like a doormat,

dirty and forgotten.

Forgive us

when we close the doors

and shutter the windows of our homes,

our places of business,

and our very lives

to those equally your very good creation.

Forgive us

when we forget

that we are also very good

and will always be welcomed by you.

Create in us a renewed spirit of welcome

for the world,

for others,

and for ourselves...

(Silent Personal Prayers of Confession)

The Holy Spirit
breathes new life into us
so that we can praise God,
**our Maker,
Savior,
and life-giving.**

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven!
Be glad in the Lord
and shout for joy:
**in Jesus
we are forgiven.**

Psalm 32:1, 11

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

Ave Maria, Franz Schubert (Latin)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Genesis 1:1-2:25

Leviticus 19:33-34

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:

Welcome All – Welcome Others as God Welcomes You

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Song of Response #203

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (Ghana)

Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

Children of the Heavenly Father, Arr. Lorie Line (Sweden)

Prayer of Dedication (Leader **People**)

Lord God,

you have entrusted us with the works of your own hands.

**Now we return these gifts to you
with thanksgiving and praise.**

Use them all for your glory
and for the good of your world.

Amen.

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and *The Lord's Prayer*

Malotte

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

Communion of God's People #515

I Come with Joy

Prayer after Communion (**Unison**)

Nourishing God,

thank you for inviting us to your table

where all are welcome,

and for feeding us with the bread of life

and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation.

As you have filled our lives with love and hope,

may we be a source of your love and hope

for others who hunger and thirst for good news.

Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Leader **People**) (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 #547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing (Wales)

*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

Fantasia in C Major, J.S. Bach (Germany)

May our service be pleasing to God!

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

World Communion Sunday The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Jesus with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Jesus in the celebration. World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr, pastor at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in 1933. World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity – in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another. World Communion Sunday was adopted throughout the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. In 1940, the Federal Council of Churches (now the National Council of Churches), endorsed World Communion Sunday and began to promote it to Christian churches worldwide. The idea spread very slowly at the start. It was during the WWII that the spirit caught hold, as people were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world. The liturgical color for communion is white, representing the purity of Jesus.

Today’s “Communion Set” includes a plate made in England, the “pitcher” is a Japanese tea pot from prior to WWI, and the “chalice” is a Moroccan glass from a company that helps single women make a living to support their children.

The Communion Table coverings include a hand-embroidered tapestry from India.

The three crosses are from Ethiopia.

The flags throughout the sanctuary represent the countries from which our members’ families immigrated to the United States.

Can You Identify All The Flags?



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 and Facebook page. Search for “First Presbyterian Church Great Falls MT” on either site. Recordings of previous live streams will remain on both sites. 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, or Facebook page, to find the new link.



Starting this week, we will be looking at the biblical practice of “Welcoming All”. We will focus on Welcoming Others as God Welcomes You, See Christ in Every Person, Know Your Gifts of Hospitality and Encourage Others’ Gifts, and Challenge Otherring. Following Jesus is a lifelong journey where we learn and do what Jesus said and did. And it takes practice. And practice. And more practice. Not so we main obtain perfection, but rather to open and honestly put our faith and love into action. Learning about and following these different practices will help form our worship, adult education classes, children and youth education classes, even some congregation events.

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. If it is convenient for you, on the next two Sundays (October 10 and 17) there will be an opportunity to have pictures taken after worship.

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:	August	September	Year to Date
Income	\$31,794.91	\$57,076.35	\$314,836.45
Expenses	<u>\$34,376.81</u>	<u>\$31,308.91</u>	<u>\$357,715.09</u>
Difference	(\$2,581.90)	\$25,767.44	(\$42,878.64)

If you are not receiving **emails**, including the Saturday morning “Church Update”, please send your current email address to the office, secretary@firstpresgfmt.org.

Toby’s House Crisis Nursery and **CASA-CAN** are having a Coffee Cruise Fundraiser entitled Warm Hands, Warm Heart. “Passports” good at 7 local coffee shops are available for \$30 at Toby’s House, 421 5th St and CASA, 325 2nd Ave N.

If you would like to be a **liturgist** sometime and help with leading worship, please call Rees Davies at 406-231-8665

COMING WORSHIP THEMES

October 10, 2021

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 25:31-46

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:
Welcome All – See Jesus in Every Person
Liturgist: Rees Davies

October 17, 2021

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 10:38-42

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:
Welcome All – Know Your Gifts of
Hospitality and Encourage Others’ Gifts
Liturgist: Randy Houtz

October 24, 2021

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Luke 7:36-50

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:
Welcome All – Challenging Others
Liturgist: Deb Skinner

October 31, 2021

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Genesis 3:1-24

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:
Confess – Confess
Liturgist: Marla Wilckins

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

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

Today, Sunday, October 3	8:15 a.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
Monday, October 4	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Partners
	6:30 p.m.	Beth Moore’s “Here and Now, There and Then” Bible Study
Tuesday, October 5	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	12:00 noon	Souler Energy Committee
Wednesday, October 6	7:00 a.m.	Men’s Group
	6:00 p.m.	BBQ Kickoff for WOW
Thursday, October 7	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 (Zoom only)
Saturday, October 9	10:00 a.m.	Presbytery of Glacier, Seeley Lake
Next Sunday, October 10	8:15 a.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m.	Seeking God Together Listening Group

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Tuesday, October 12	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m. Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 16	Loretta Pearce’s Service of Witness to the Resurrection & Family Reception, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, October 17.....	Children & Youth Ministries Committee, 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, October 19	Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 23	Installation of Jessica Crane Munoz, Sunrise PC, 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, October 26	Board of Deacons, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 28.....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Sunday, October 31.....	Trunk or Treat, 6:00 p.m.

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

Grace – What A Gift! Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness. It strikes us when we walk through the dark valley of a meaningless and empty life. It strikes us when our disgust for our own being, our indifference, our weakness, our hostility, and our lack of direction and composure have become intolerable to us. It strikes us when, year after year, the longed-for perfection of life does not appear, when the old compulsions reign within us as they have for decades, when despair destroys all joy and courage. Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying: “You are accepted.”

—Paul Tillich