

# The Chrismon Tree




## *First Sunday of Advent*

November 28, 2021



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## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*Lord, you are our righteousness. (Jeremiah 33:16)*

*We wait with bated breath for your awesome promises to spring forth.*

Happy Advent! We direct our hearts and our worship now toward the coming of Jesus at Christmas and at the end of time. **Welcome.** With voices full of excitement, attitudes full of enthusiasm, and spirits full of joy let us actively give our worship to God.

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.

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 Others  
Continually Growing Together in God's Word  
And Actively Sharing the Good News of Christ*

***May our worship be pleasing to God!***

# GATHERINGBEFOREGOD

Prelude *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (Plainsong, Mode V), Arr. Matthew Weston

Time of Silence

Welcome

Advent

Advent Wreath

Lighting of the Advent Candle (Leader **People**)

Out of the depths we cry to you, O LORD.

**LORD, hear our voices!**

Let your ears be attentive to our voices of supplications!

**If you should mark iniquities, O LORD, who could stand?**

But there is forgiveness with you, and so you are revered.

**We wait for you O LORD, and hope in your word;**

We wait for you O LORD, more than those who watch for the morning.

**We hope in you LORD!**

For with you there is steadfast love and power to redeem.

**LORD, you are the one who redeems us from all our iniquities.**

Advent Wreath Candle Song #137

*He Came Down*

*He came down that we may have hope;*

*he came down that we may have hope;*

*he came down that we may have hope;*

*hallelujah forevermore.*

Christmas Tree

Christmas Tree

Song

*O Tannenbaum* (*O Christmas Tree*), Traditional German

Giving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Moment for Stewardship

Offertory

*For the Beauty of the Earth*, Arr. James Kimball

Prayer of Dedication (Leader **People**)

God of righteousness,

you have saved us from the worst the world can do

and have promised to redeem the whole creation when Jesus comes again.

**In faith and hope**

**we offer our gifts of money and self,**

**that we may be part of what you are doing in the world even now,**

**as we watch for Jesus coming in glory.**

**Amen.**

Chrismons

Mark 9:2-3

Revelation 1:13-14b, 16a, d; 21:18b

Revelation 22:13

John 19:19

Dove

Scripture & Significance

John 1:32

Song #408

*There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

Tablets

Scripture & Significance

Exodus 20:1-17

Matthew 5:17-20

Song #695

*Change My Heart, O God*

Manger

Scripture & Significance

Luke 2:1-7

Song #115

*Away in a Manger*

Angel

Scripture & Significance

Luke 1:26-38

Matthew 1:18-21

Luke 2:8-12

Matthew 2:13

Song #113

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Bell/Musical Note

Scripture & Significance

Luke 2:13-14

Luke 2:25-32

Song

*I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day*

Lamb/Shepherd's Rod  
Scripture & Significance

Luke 2:15-20

John 1:29

John 10:11

Matthew 25:31-33

Song #118 (vs. 1, 6)

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

Camel/Star

Scripture & Significance

Genesis 1:16

Genesis 15:1-6

Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11

Revelation 22:16

Song #151

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

Candle

Scripture & Significance

Genesis 1:1-4

Isaiah 9:2

John 8:12

Song #85

*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

Cross/Crown

Scripture & Significance

John 19:1-3, 19-20

Matthew 27:11

John 18:33-34, 36-38

Revelation 14:14

Revelation 2:10

Song #268

*Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Heart

Scripture & Significance

John 3:16

1 John 4:7-12

Song #110

*Love Has Come*

Prayers of the People and *The Lord's Prayer*

(Sung to: *Away in a Manger*)

\*Sending Song #106

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

\*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

*Fugue in C Major, Dietrich Buxtehude*

*May our service be pleasing to God!*

## **SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP**

**Advent** is the first season of the Liturgical, or Christian, Year. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. Our word "advent" comes from the Latin *adventus* which means "coming": Christ has come, Christ is coming, and Christ will come. The season of Advent is about Jesus, the Word, "coming." It's about anticipating and preparing for Jesus' arrival. God comes to us in many and various ways. God speaks to us through the prophets and saints. God comes and speaks to us when we are listening. God comes in the beauty and mysteries of nature. Most of all, God comes in the person of Jesus, speaking to his listeners face to face.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Gift of the Nutcracker** *The Nutcracker* was first performed in 1892 and quickly became a holiday tradition, one that continues for many families to this day. In *The Gift of the Nutcracker*, Matt Rawle takes a look at this Christmas classic in a new way – through the lens of faith. Rawle uses the iconic tale to help us understand God’s greatest gift of the Christ child and of the kingdom Christ came to build. Much like Clara, we are all caught in an Advent season, pondering a most extraordinary gift. Join us throughout Advent on Sundays beginning November 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m. or 11:30 a.m., or on Thursdays beginning December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. If you’d like to reserve a book, call the office.

**Submit your Favorite Christmas Carol** On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, our worship will be a time of lessons and carols. During this time, we will learn the background to some of our favorite carols. If there is a particular carol you’d like us to consider including, please let the office know.

**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 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.

**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).

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

**Pictorial Directory** We are organizing 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, today there will be an opportunity to have pictures taken after worship.

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).

<b>Financial Update:</b>	October	November to Date	Year to Date
Income	\$37,758.58	\$29,564.59	\$384,293.80
Expenses	<u>\$45,131.52</u>	<u>\$34,406.13</u>	<u>\$437,638.26</u>
Difference	<b>(\$7,372.94)</b>	<b>(\$4,841.54)</b>	<b>(\$53,344.46)</b>

**WOW** (Worship on Wednesday) (formerly Midweek Ministry) has been rebranded as a ministry for all ages. There are programs for children, youth, young adults, adults. Our hope is to attract community members as well as congregation members. Childcare will be available for all under 3. Dinner is served at 6:00 p.m., with programs/classes to follow. Invite a neighbor and join us!

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).

**TOWN PUMP CHALLENGE** Town Pump has again selected **FISH** to be part of the 2021 campaign – “MONTANANS HELPING MONTANANS”. This is the 20th year for Town Pump’s support of food banks. Through November 30, Town Pump will match each dollar collected by FISH up to \$25,000. If you wish to help reach the FISH goal, please send your donation to the church office (noted for FISH) or to FISH, Box 662, Great Falls, MT 59403. UPDATE: Fish has exceeded their goal! So far they have raised \$26,000. Thanks to all who donated.

**Christmas Mid-Day Dinner** Join us Sunday, December 12 at 11:45 a.m. in the social hall as we celebrate Christmas with a fellowship dinner. Menu includes: Garden Salad, Herb Roasted Beef Roast, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Corn Pudding, Garlic Green Beans, Chocolate Cheesecake Mousse, rolls, and drinks (coffee, tea, water, and punch) Cost is \$7.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children. Please help us in our preparation by contacting the office to sign up before Wednesday, December 8 at noon.



When the frost is on the pumpkin, it's time to start leafing through that cookbook collection – or the internet – for the stews, breads, soups, casseroles and cookies that seem to taste best in autumn. The new **church cookbook**, Feeding the Flock, is now available. It was put together by Presbyterian Women from recipes shared by the congregation. The book is available in the church office and soon, during Fellowship Time. Price is \$15 for one or two for \$27. As an added bonus, if you purchase the books during Fellowship Time, you may receive a vintage First Presbyterian collectible at no additional cost, as long as supplies last.

## COMING WORSHIP THEMES

### **December 5, 2021**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Communion

Lessons and Carols

Advent Candles: Mary & Kurt Fagenstrom

### **December 12, 2021**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant

Advent Candles: Ginger & Rick Blevins

### **December 19, 2021**

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a

The Coming Peace

Advent Candles: WOW

### **December 24, 2021**

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion

The Candle Creche

Advent Candles:

### **December 26, 2021**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

Colossians 3:12-17

New Clothes for Christmas

## MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

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

Today, Sunday, November 28	8:15 a.m.	The Gift of the Nutcracker Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m.	The Gift of the Nutcracker Class
Tuesday, November 30	9:00 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Board of Deacons
Wednesday, December 1	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:00 p.m.	WOW (Worship on Wednesday) for all ages
Thursday, December 2	12:00 noon	Spiritual Life Committee
	5:00 p.m.	Worship Committee
	6:30 p.m.	The Gift of the Nutcracker Class
Saturday, December 4	11:30 a.m.	PW Christmas Tea
Next Sunday, December 5	8:15 a.m.	The Gift of the Nutcracker Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m.	The Gift of the Nutcracker Class

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Sunday, December 12 .....	Christmas Fellowship Dinner, 11:45 a.m.
Tuesday, December 14.....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m. Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, December 17.....	Drop & Shop, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 18.....	Drop & Shop, 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 23 .....	Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Friday, December 24.....	Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Worship, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 27-Thursday, January 30.....	Winter Bible Bash, 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 29 .....	Movie Night – The Nutcracker, 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

**The Journey Begins at Advent** When Advent begins on November 28 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus' life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again. "Like a great waterwheel," writes Joan Chittister, "the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime."



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## Prayer Requests for the Week of November 28, 2021

*To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. (Psalm 25:1)*

<b>This week's staff/officer:</b>	Liza Nosich, Accounts Payable/Payroll Financial Secretary	
<b>This week's elder:</b>	Scott Royce	
<b>This week's deacon:</b>	Chris Pfof	
<b>This week's ministry:</b>	Property Committee	
<b>This week's mission support:</b>	Longfellow Elementary School	
<b>This week's home bound/care center:</b>	Donna Lewis	
<b>This week's families</b>	Mary Brinkley	
	Bill & Carol Bronson	
	Stu, Alissa, Christofer, Raelynn, & Johnathan Brown	

### Other prayer requests:

John Stroppe	The Family of Matt Lyon	Serenia
Lisa	Judy	Steve
Fred	The Family of Dwight Stevenson	Nikki & Nate

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

If an update on prayer requests has not been received after three weeks, the request will be removed from this list. Please call the church to update the prayer list.

**Notes from Worship – November 28, 2021**  
**The Chrismon Tree**