

**Deuteronomy 24:14-22**

**Acts 6:1-7**

**Biblical Practices for Faithful Living: Live in  
Community – Uplift Those in Need**



February 20, 2022

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



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## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*Jesus, we come today with a whole host of emotions and distractions.  
You know them all. Wrap us in your love, that we may rest.*

Family of Christ, **welcome** to worship! In Jesus' name, please greet the children of God seated near you. 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 Exodus 13:3-10 and Matthew 14:1-21? When did you feast and listen to the faith story of someone else? How did you remember and continue the story of Jesus and God's forgiveness and acceptance in sharing 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** is 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!***

# GATHERING BEFORE GOD

\*Gathering Music

*Shine Jesus Shine  
Above All  
Holy is the Lord*

Time of Silence

Welcome

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

Friends,  
we know what God desires of us:

**That we do justice,  
and love kindness,  
and walk humbly with God.**

We gather this morning  
to remind each other about that,

**To remember that now  
is always the right time  
to do these things.**

So, with thanks in our hearts,  
let us worship God.

\*Song of Praise

*Make Me a Servant*

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

Jesus promised us  
that God is kind  
even to the ungrateful and the wicked,  
even to us.

**Trusting in God's kindness and love,  
we confess our sin...**

**Sometimes, O God,  
we forget people,  
or we toss them aside—  
the difficult ones,  
the needy ones,  
the ones that are hard to spend time with,  
the ones who confront us.**

**And sometimes when we do things like that,  
it's not really about the other people,  
but about us.**

**We are uncomfortable,  
or we feel guilty,  
or we follow brighter,  
shinier people,  
or we worry about what will make us look good.**

**We are in such desperate need  
of your forgiveness.**

**We need to be forgiven  
for our sin,  
for our mistakes,  
for mistaking what the world values  
with what you value.**

**Help us to be better,  
and to see more clearly,  
and to care more thoroughly...**

*(Silent Personal Prayers of Confession)*

Friends,  
hear this good news:  
the love of God  
is beyond measure,  
**and we are  
included in that love.**

Know that we are forgiven  
and thus freed  
to love and serve.

**Alleluia!**

**Amen.**

## HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

Deuteronomy 24:14-22

Acts 6:1-7

Biblical Practice for Faithful Living:

Live in Community – Uplift Those in Need

## RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

\*Song of Response #515

*I Come with Joy*

\*Affirmation of Faith (**Unison**)

*The Confession of 1967, 9.19*

**Out of Israel God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. Jesus gave history its meaning and direction and called the Church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.**

Message in Music

*If We Are the Body*

Giving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Invitation to Offering (Leader **People**)

Children of the Most High God,

in obedience to Jesus' words

to love others as we love ourselves,

do good,

bles and pray for friends

and enemies alike,

**we now do to others**

**as we would have them do to us,**

**offering God's tithes and our gifts**

**for the sake of our sisters and brothers in need.**

Offertory

*We Are an Offering*

Prayer of Dedication (Leader **People**)

Holy God,  
you have given us land  
in which to grow and thrive,  
food for survival and pleasure,  
air and water,  
fire and cold.

**Make our thanksgiving  
bloom forth into the lives of others  
in the name of the one  
who gave everything for us.**

**Amen.**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, Which Art in Heaven*

## **SENDING FOR SERVICE**

\*Sending Song #700

*I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*

\*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.**

\*Invitation to Discipleship

\*Blessing

\*Sending Music

*May our service be pleasing to God!*

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

**Ordinary Time** The Christian year, sometimes referred to as the liturgical year, includes two seasons identified as ordinary time. The first runs from January 7<sup>th</sup> (if not a Sunday) to Ash Wednesday. The second goes from Trinity Sunday (which can be as early as May 17 and as late as June 20, depending on the date of Easter) through Christ the King Sunday (the Sunday before Advent begins). The word “ordinary” as used here comes from the ordinal numerals by which the weeks are identified or counted, from the 1<sup>st</sup> week of Ordinary Time in January running up to, at times, the 34<sup>th</sup> week toward the end of November. Ordinary Time is the part of the liturgical year that falls outside the seasons of Advent/Christmas and Easter. Themes usually focus on the teaching of Jesus and growth as disciples of Jesus. The liturgical color is green, representing growth and life.

The **Time of Silence** is an opportunity for you to clear yourself from what might distract you from fully giving your worship to God; for you to sit in the presence of God with nothing to do but simply be there; and to open yourself to the power of the Holy Spirit.

The **Prayer of Confession** was “written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’. Used with permission.”

***I Come with Joy*** Brian Wren wrote this text as a summation of a series of sermons to his congregation on the meaning of Communion (1968, rev. 1977). Important theological themes are explained using simple straightforward words. This text affirms that Christian unity is not achievement but gift, one renewed each time we gather for the Lord’s Supper. There is a general move from the individual (“I come”) to the corporate (“together met, together bound”). Each of us enters as an “I” and leaves as part of “we.” The tune DOVE OF PEACE is an American folk melody first published in William Walker’s *Southern Harmony* (1854) as the setting for *O Tell Me Where the Dove Has Flown to Build Her Downy Nest*. The present arrangement is by Austin C. Lovelace. The setting was arranged for *Ecumenical Praise* (1977). Lovelace was born in 1919 and enjoyed a career as a music educator, teaching at several universities and seminaries, as well as serving nationally for the Methodist and Presbyterian churches.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



What does it mean for us to live in community? How do we navigate our differences, find common ground, and learn to create a life together with all the unique aspects that make us who we are? When we read the Bible and consider the history of Christianity, it becomes clear that no one is able to, nor are we supposed to, follow Jesus on our own. We need one another for this journey of faith. As we look at the biblical practice of “Living in Community”, we will focus on the following dimensions of living in community:

- ~**Gather Across Differences**
- ~**Feast and Listen**
- ~**Uplift Those in Need**
- ~**Support Those Who Depart**

In two weeks, we start looking at the biblical practice of “Practice Spiritual Disciplines”. We will focus on

- ~**Fast**
- ~**Pray**
- ~**Listen to God**
- ~**Embrace Simplicity**
- ~**Unplug**
- ~**Try New Spiritual Disciplines**

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. Adult Classes begin Thursday, January 6 and meet every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. (Zoom only) and Sundays at 8:15 a.m. (in the library and on Zoom).

**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).

**Remember:** articles for the PRESS, or eblast, are to be e-mailed directly to Faith at [publications@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:publications@firstpresgfmt.org). If you use her personal email address, or the office email of [secretary@firstpresgfmt.org](mailto:secretary@firstpresgfmt.org), there is no guarantee they will be noticed for inclusion in a timely manner.

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.

**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 will be finalizing our inhouse production of an updated pictorial directory in January. 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.

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).

Mark your calendars now. The Deacons’ **Spring Follies** will be March 20.

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). The normal Zoom meeting ID is 491 101 0646 and the passcode is 406884 or type the following into your web browser: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4911010646?pwd=azRJamU5dFRFdTdXU3R5Um1UZ09wZz09>

<b>Financial Update:</b>	January	February to Date	2022 to Date
Income	\$25,774.79	\$5,146.86	\$30,921.65
Expenses	<u>\$31,091.18</u>	<u>\$23,264.72</u>	<u>\$54,355.90</u>
Difference	<b>(\$5,316.39)</b>	<b>(\$18,117.86)</b>	<b>(\$23,434.25)</b>

**WOW** (Worship on Wednesday) has programs for children, youth, young adults, and 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!

## **COMING WORSHIP THEMES**

**February 27, 2022**

Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Acts 15:36-41

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living: Live  
in Community – Support Those Who  
Depart

Alissa will be preaching while John is on  
Study Leave

**March 2, 2022**

Ash Wednesday

**March 6, 2022**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent

Numbers 29:7-11

Matthew 4:1-4; 6:16-18

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:  
Practice Spiritual Disciplines – Fast

**March 13, 2022**

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent

Matthew 6:1-15

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:  
Practice Spiritual Disciplines – Pray

**March 20, 2022**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent

1 Kings 19:1-18

John 10:27

Revelation 3:20

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:  
Practice Spiritual Disciplines – Listen to  
God

## MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

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

Today, Sunday, February 20	8:15 a.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship Time
	11:30 a.m.	Children & Youth Ministries Committee Listening Group
Tuesday, February 22	10:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting Board of Deacons Meeting
Wednesday, February 23	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:00 p.m.	WOW (Worship on Wednesday)
Thursday, February 24	12:00 noon	Spiritual Life Committee
	6:30 p.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class (Zoom only)
Next Sunday, February 27		John is on Study Leave
	8:15 a.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Fellowship Time

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Tuesday, March 1.....	Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Wednesday, March 2 .....	Drive-Thru Imposition of Ashes, 7:00 a.m. Drive-Thru Imposition of Ashes, 11:30 a.m. Ash Wednesday Dinner & Worship, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 3 .....	Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 8.....	Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m. Property Committee, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 12.....	Presbyterian Women, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, March 13 .....	Children & Youth Ministries Committee, 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 15.....	Joint Session & Board of Deacons Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 20 .....	Spring Follies, 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 22.....	Board of Deacons Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 24 .....	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

April Hansen  
Randy Houtz (Clerk)

Jane Snowberger  
Jennie Yates

**Deacons**

Judy Buer  
Barb Flaherty

Tom Hazen  
Dave Herman

Paula Jackson  
Deb Skinner

**Staff**

Rev. John E Ritchie, Pastor (906-322-9490)

Alissa Brown, CE Director

Joan Schmidt, Ministry of Music

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

**Honor Thy Teachers** When President Eisenhower invited James Michener to a White House dinner, the bestselling author replied: “Dear Mr. President, I received your invitation three days after I had agreed to speak a few words at a dinner honoring the wonderful high school teacher who taught me how to write. I know you will not miss me at your dinner, but she might at hers.” Instead of taking offense, Eisenhower answered: “In his lifetime, a man lives under 15 or 16 presidents. But a really fine teacher comes into his life but rarely.” Fine teachers are indeed worth cherishing, whether they hold classes in churches or public schools, on Sundays or on weekdays. Let us honor and appreciate all teachers, all year long. Thank you for preparing lessons with care, for going above and beyond to meet each student’s needs, and for sparking curiosity about God and everything he created. You’re a blessing!



# First Presbyterian Church

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## Prayer Requests for the Week of February 20, 2022

*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>	Ginger Blevins
<b>This week's deacon:</b>	Judy Buer
<b>This week's ministry:</b>	Mission Committee
<b>This week's mission support:</b>	General Assembly of the PC(USA)
<b>This week's home bound/care center:</b>	Jo Ann Robitaille
<b>This week's families</b>	Karen & Gary Grindeland Dorie Hall Heather Hall

### Other prayer requests:

Thelma	Kevin Hicks	The Family of Lee Pate
Bill & Rosanne Davis	Beth & Family	Lucy
Joan Schmidt & Family	Bonnie Feddes	Kurt and Mary Fagenstrom
Hyke		

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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 – February 20, 2022**

## **Deuteronomy 24:14-22**

### **Acts 6:1-7**

# **Biblical Practices for Faithful Living: Live in Community – Uplift Those in Need**

*Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.*

*(Deuteronomy 24:18, New Revised Standard Version)*

*And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.”*

*(Acts 6:2-4, New Revised Standard Version)*