

Matthew 6:5-15
Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:
Practice Spiritual Disciplines – Pray

SPIRITUAL
DISCIPLINES
THE PATH TO TRANSFORMATION

March 13, 2022
2nd Sunday in Lent



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 firstpresgfmt

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Jesus, you long to gather everyone under your sheltering wings.

Like stubborn children, we often resist. Help us instead to welcome your loving care.

“The Lord is [our] light and [our] salvation. ... The Lord is the stronghold of [our] life.” (Psalm 27:1) Welcome to worship. 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 4:1-4, 6:16-18 and Acts 13:2-3? From what did you fast? How did your fast bring you closer to God? Where did you fast make you more like Jesus?

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 referred 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

Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring, J.S. Bach

Time of Silence

Welcome

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

Draw near to God

and God (*raise both arms to the sky*)

will draw near to us. (*bring hands toward heart, crossing them over your heart*)

When we pray, we free up space to ponder God's goodness.

Let us (*extend arms forward, palms facing upward*)

keep company (*bend elbows and bring together hands in prayer*)

with Jesus. (*sign "Jesus" using right middle finger touching the middle of left palm, repeat with left middle finger touching the middle of right palm*)

*Song of Praise #775

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

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

God is gracious

and merciful

and knows our needs

even before they reach our lips.

Still,

we engage in confession,

admitting to God

all that rests uneasily in our hearts.

Confident of God's love,

we make our confession...

Holy One,

hear our prayers.

Although we come to church on Sundays,

we too often live the rest of the week

as though you don't exist.

We act as though we created ourselves,

with no connection to you,

with no hope of wholeness.

Open us
to your constant presence,
Holy One.
You offer us the gift of prayer,
but we forget to lift our hearts to you.
Forgive us
of the prayers we have not spoken.
Teach us to pray,
and restore our sight,
that we may commune with you each day
in the light of eternity...

(Silent Personal Prayers of Confession)

Hear this from God's Word:
Neither death nor life,
powers nor rulers,
things present nor future,
nor anything else in all creation
can separate us
from the love of God
in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:38

Therefore,
no one can condemn us
or disqualify us from the body,
so we hold fast to its head,
who nourishes growth from God.

Colossians 2:16–19

Because of God's forgiveness
the peace of Jesus
rules in our hearts.

Colossians 3:15

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

Prayer of St. Francis, Sebastian Temple

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

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RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Song of Response #465

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*Affirmation of Faith (Leader **People**) *The Heidelberg Catechism*, 4.116-.117. adapted
The Second Helvetic Confession, 5.219, adapted

Why do Christians need to pray?

Because prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us. And also, because God gives God's grace and the Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking God for them.

What is the kind of prayer that pleases God, and that God listens to?

First, we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, revealed to us in God's Word, asking for everything God has commanded us to ask for. Second, we must fully recognize our need and misery, so that we humble ourselves in God's majestic presence. Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation: even though we do not deserve it, God will surely listen to our prayer because of Jesus our Lord. That is what God promised us in God's Word.

Moreover, prayer is to be made voluntarily, without constraint or for any reward.

Nor is it proper for prayer to be superstitiously restricted to one place, as if it were not permitted to pray anywhere except in a sanctuary.

Neither is it necessary for public prayers to be the same in all churches with respect to form and time.

Giving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Invitation to Offering (Leader **People**)

As we wait for the coming of God's good reign,
we answer the invitation to take part in God's work.

**So we bring God's tithe and our offerings
with joyful gratitude.**

Offertory

Fantasia in D Minor, Johann Pachelbel

Prayer of Dedication (Leader **People**)

Holy One,
we give you thanks
for your steadfast love
and faithfulness.

**Bless these offerings
and transform them into gifts of hospitality
for those who need them most.**

Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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

Malotte

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Song #472

Kum ba Yah

*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

*Postlude *Deo Gracias (O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High)*, Healey Willan

May our service be pleasing to God!

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lent is the fourth season of the Christian year. Its length is the 40 days preceding Easter Day, not counting Sundays. This means Lent always begins on a Wednesday, known as Ash Wednesday. Lent commemorates Jesus' fast and temptation in the wilderness which lasted 40 days. Just as Jesus confronted his temptations during these 40 days, Lent helps us focus on our most basic need as sinners: forgiveness. The only way our Lord's forgiving power can become effective in our lives is by our taking the initiative to confront our sins, confess them and repent of them. In short, Lent is a season of penitence. The liturgical color is purple.

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 **Call to Worship** is from the Young Children and Multiage Children Leader Guides from Follow Me: Biblical Practice for Faithful Living- Practice Spiritual Disciplines material.

The first part of **Our Confession and God's Forgiveness** is by Beth Merrill Neel (www.holdfaasttowhatisgood.com)

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me The words of this African American spiritual indicate that slaves viewed life as a pilgrimage from bondage into the promised land. They identified strongly with Jesus, who, born on the fringe of society, became the burden bearer of the downtrodden and oppressed. The spiritual demonstrates that Jesus is the only one able to walk with the pilgrim through all the trials and troubles of life. African Americans are quick to point out the text is "not a request but an affirmation that Jesus will walk with them." Other stanzas associated with this spiritual speak of the experiences of those faithful who have gone before as a basis for this affirmation: "He walked with my mother, he'll walk with me." This song works well in Lent, when the spiritual journey is often a prominent theme.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Hours The church office is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Tithes and Offerings may be mailed to the church office or made online through our website, www.firstpresgfmt.org.

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. If you use her personal email address, or the office email of secretary@firstpresgfmt.org, there is no guarantee they will be noticed for inclusion in a timely manner.

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

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

Financial Update:	February	March to Date	2022 to Date
Income	\$18,412.13	\$10,007.44	\$54,194.36
Expenses	\$31,424.85	\$9,813.28	\$72,329.31
Difference	(\$13,012.72)	\$194.16	(\$18,134.95)



We are currently looking at—the biblical practice of “Practice Spiritual Disciplines”. Spiritual disciplines are practices we undertake intentionally to deepen our relationship with God, and to be transformed into better disciples of Jesus. As we look at the Biblical Practice of Spiritual Disciplines, we will focus on these six aspects:

- ~**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).

Mark your calendars now. The Deacons’ **Spring Follies** will be next Sunday, 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>

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

March 20, 2022

3rd 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

March 27, 2022

4th Sunday in Lent

Matthew 6:19-21

Philippians 4:11-12

Revelation 3:20

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living:
Practice Spiritual Disciplines – Embrace
Simplicity

April 3, 2022

5th Sunday in Lent

April 10, 2022

Palm Sunday

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

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

Today, Sunday, March 13	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.	Listening Group
	4:00 p.m.	Children & Youth Ministries Committee
Monday, March 14	6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, March 15	10:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday, March 16	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:00 p.m.	WOW (Worship on Wednesday)
Thursday, March 17	6:30 p.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class (Zoom only)
Saturday, March 19	10:00 a.m.	Presbyterian Women
Next Sunday, March 20	8:15 a.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Spring Follies & Potluck Lunch

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

Thursday, March 24 Spiritual Life Committee, 12:00 noon
Sunday, March 27 Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 30 Game Night, 6:00 p.m.
Friday, March 1-Sunday, April 3 Presbytery Meeting in Hamilton
Tuesday, April 5 Souler Energy Committee, 12:00 noon
Thursday, April 7 Worship Committee, 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 9 Presbyterian Women, 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, April 10 Children & Youth Ministries Committee, 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, April 12 Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
Property Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 14 Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 15 Good Friday
Saturday, April 16 Family Easter Celebration

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)

April Hansen

Jane Snowberger

Ginger Blevins
Alissa Brown
Mary Fagenstrom

Randy Houtz (Clerk)

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

An Ancient Prayer

Lord Jesus, think on me
and purge away my sin.

From earthborn passions set me free
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that when the flood is past,
I may th' eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.

—Synesius of Cyrene (4th century)



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Prayer Requests for the Week of March 13, 2022

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

This week's staff/officer:	Joan Schmidt, Ministry of Music
This week's elder:	April Hansen
This week's deacon:	Dave Herman
This week's ministry:	Prayer Partners
This week's mission support:	Longfellow Elementary School
This week's home bound/care center:	Georgia Vining
This week's families	Jane & Fred Hashley Dan Hazen Tom Hazen

Other prayer requests:

Bonnie Feddes	Kurt and Mary Fagenstrom	Hyke
The Family of Michael Evans	Stu Brown	Shirley
Evelyn	Matt & Ro	Darcy
Rees Davies	Bruce	Hannah
Elle	Fran Wylder	Penny & Jim Adkins
Ukraine		

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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 – March 13, 2022

Matthew 6:5-15

Biblical Practices for Faithful Living: Practice Spiritual Disciplines – Pray

Jesus said, “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

(Matthew 6:6-8, New Revised Standard Version)