

1 Kings 19:1-18

Mark 1:35-39

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

**SPIRITUAL
DISCIPLINES**
THE PATH TO TRANSFORMATION

March 20, 2022
3rd Sunday in Lent




Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.

1315 Central Avenue
Great Falls, Montana 59401
(406) 453-1411

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www.firstpresgfmt.org

 firstpresgfmt

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*O God, “earnestly we seek you; we thirst for you, our whole being longs for you.”
(Psalm 63:1, NIV, adapted)*

God invites us through Isaiah: “All you who are thirsty, come to the waters.” (Isaiah 55:1, NIV) Jesus, the Living Water, is eager to quench your parched soul. 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 6:5-15? When did you catch yourself praying to impress others? Where you able to turn your focus on God? How were your prayers filled with thoughtful words, instead of empty or meaningless words.

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

Prelude

Soli Deo Gloria (To God Alone the Glory), Camil Van Hulse

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 listen to God, we recognize God's voice in many ways.

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 #22

God of the Sparrow

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

We fool ourselves

if we think that our ways
are hidden from God.

Scripture calls us

to turn from sinful ways

and return to God,

who offers mercy and pardon.

Therefore, we confess our sin,

trusting in the mercy
of God our Maker...

Loving God,

**you are always speaking,
giving us instructions,
directing our attention,
and telling us your love.**

We confess

**that sometimes
we are not very good listeners.**

**We aren't sure
what is your voice,
and what is ours,
and what is just noise.**

**We are easily distracted.
We like our own ways.
But even when we are too busy,
you still call.**

**We admit
that we find you difficult to hear,
and we ask
for your help.**

**Open our minds
and hearts.**

**Tune our ears
to your voice.**

**Help us
to listen to what you have to say,
and then help us
to follow wherever you lead...**

(Silent Personal Prayers of Confession)

**Thank you, God,
for hearing us,
and for speaking to us.**

**Remind us of your love
and forgiveness,
and give us strength
to be faithful to you.**

God's love is sure and steadfast,
always providing
a way out,
a way through,
a way back to God.

**Through the waters of baptism,
we have died with Jesus
and are raised with Jesus,
forgiven and freed.**

With gratitude,
in faith,
**we will walk
the way of Jesus.**

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS

Message in Music

You Raise Me Up, Loveland/Graham

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture & Message

1 Kings 19:1-18

Mark 1:35-39

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

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Song of Response #410

God Is Calling through the Whisper

Giving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings
Invitation to Offering (Leader **People**)
God gives us
more than enough
for our journey of faith.
**We present
God's tithe
and our offerings
so that others
may know their blessings
and give thanks to God.**

Offertory

Andante (from Sonata 6), Felix Mendelssohn

Prayer of Dedication (Leader **People**)
God of wilderness
and Promised Land,
in days of want
and in days of plenty
you have been with us.

**By these gifts we now share,
may others know of your providence and care.
Send us
—not only our offerings,
but our very selves—
to console
and comfort,
to lift up
and reach out,
to listen
and sit beside
your children everywhere
at the one table you have set;
through Jesus our Lord.**

Amen.

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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

Malotte

SENDING FOR SERVICE

*Sending Song #687

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

*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

St. Anne (O God, Our Help in Ages Past), C. Charlton Palmer

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.

Parts of **Our Confession and God's Forgiveness** are by Teri Peterson (www.liturgylink.com)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **annual meeting** of the congregation and corporation will be next Sunday, March 27, 2022, following worship, in the sanctuary The Annual Report for 2021, including the financial reports for 2021, will be presented and discussed. In addition, the congregation will act upon the dissolution of the Pastor's call with terms mutually agreed upon by the Session and the Reverend John Ritchie. If you would like the Annual Report mailed to you, please let the office know.

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).

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

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.

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	\$21,412.13	\$11,226.44	\$58,413.36
Expenses	<u>\$33,604.82</u>	<u>\$37,518.49</u>	<u>\$102,214.49</u>
Difference	(\$12,192.69)	(\$26,292.05)	(\$43,801.13)



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).

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 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

April 17, 2022

Easter Sunday

MAY GOD BLESS THIS WEEK

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

Today, 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
	4:30 p.m.	Session Meeting
Monday, March 21	6:30 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, March 22	10:30 a.m.	Staff Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Board of Deacons Meeting
Wednesday, March 23	7:00 a.m.	Men's Group
	6:00 p.m.	WOW (Worship on Wednesday)
Thursday, March 24	12:00 noon	Spiritual Life Committee
	6:30 p.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class (Zoom only)
Next Sunday, March 27	8:15 a.m.	The Biblical Practice of Following Jesus Adult Class
	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 a.m.	Annual Meeting

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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, 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 19.....	Session Meeting, 6:30 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

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

Jesus Has Gone There First Whether we gaze with longing into the garden or with fear and trembling into the desert, of this we can be sure – God walked there first! And when we who have sinned and despoiled the garden are challenged now to face the desert, we do not face it alone; Jesus has gone there before us to struggle with every demon that has ever plagued a human heart. Face the desert we must if we would reach the garden, but Jesus has gone there before us.

—James Healy



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Prayer Requests for the Week of March 20, 2022

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

This week's staff/officer:	Butch Steele, Worship Video Coordinator
This week's elder:	Randy Houtz
This week's deacon:	Paula Jackson
This week's ministry:	Presbyterian Women
This week's mission support:	Peace Place
This week's home bound/care center:	Donna Aafedt
This week's families	Dave & Kathy Herman Marjorie Hermanson Marv & Molly Hessler

Other prayer requests:

The Family of Michael Evans	Stu Brown	Shirley
The Family of Evelyn Pearsall	Matt & Roe	Darcy
Rees Davies	Bruce	Hannah
Elle	Fran Wylder	Jim & Penny Adkins
Ukraine	Thelma	

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 20, 2022

1 Kings 19:1-18

Mark 1:35-39

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

Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

(1 Kings 19:11-13, New Revised Standard Version)

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed.

(Mark 1:35, New Revised Standard Version)