

An Order of Worship
First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell, MT
November 22, 2020

Words of Welcome

The leadership of FPC has been closely monitoring the rise in COVID cases in Flathead County with great concern. Due to the significant increase in COVID cases and upon the recommendation of Glacier Presbytery, the Session of First Presbyterian Church has made the difficult decision to suspend the Sunday in-person 10:00 am worship celebrations and close the building for the remainder of 2020. The Pandemic Response Team will weekly evaluate the status of the pandemic. Weekly 10:00 am worship services are broadcast on KGEZ (600AM or 96.5FM) and found on the church website at fpckalispell.org. Our Tuesday Noonday Bible Study and Wednesday Noontime Scripture and Prayer are available via ZOOM. The office of FPC will maintain its regular office hours. Pastor Glenn Burfeind and Ann Swain are available for prayer and conversation. Please know that we share your disappointment.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray. O Lord, you flower the gardens for us
and make green the wastelands.
The mountains burst forth with streams of water
and the fields are filled with your bounty.
Thank you, God, for all good gifts,
and make our hearts your home
that we might serve you all of our days
and live in the hope of your peace. Amen.

Music *Agnus Dei*

Call to Worship

In deep gratitude we come to worship God.
We recognize God as the source of all goodness.
All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:
Love, peace, joy, patience, kindness and gentleness are all of God.
We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.
We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

Music *Give Thanks*

Call to Confession

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weakness,
since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin.
Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy
and find grace to help in time of need.
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor as we come to God in prayer.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Wondrous and generous God,

you have blessed us with gentle rains, glorious sunsets and sun-warmed days.

You bless us with loving families, kind friends and a caring church.

Let us receive these gifts with thankfulness and humility.

We cannot earn nor do we deserve such generosity,

but we graciously open our hearts and hands to receive.

Forgive us when we are hardhearted and tight-handed,

when we don't let your goodness flow through us,

when we hide our talents and turn away from the needs of the world.

Release us, Holy One, from fear,

and create a contagious spirit of giving that touches the world with hope.

Music *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news!

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,

that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,

that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Music *As the Deer*

Prayer of Illumination (*Saint Jerome, 342-420*)

Let us pray.

Lord, you have given us your Word for a light to shine upon our path;

grant us so to meditate on that Word,

and to follow its teaching,

that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Psalms 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

Know that the LORD is God.

It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him, bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Sermon

Music *Now Thank We All Our God*

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray. God of peace and plenty, with awe and wonder we thank you for the beauty and abundance of our land and its people. Our ancestors came from many lands, for many reasons, but by your mercy they found grace in the wilderness. Your grace has supplied our daily bread without fail. We thank you. Your grace has provided the raw materials of success, as well as the wit and will to use them.

Thank you. By your sheer grace we can indulge ourselves in loveliness, steep ourselves in learning, renew ourselves in leisure and rest in safety. Thank you, Lord.

You have freely blessed us with more than we could ever earn. You have sustained us in bounty we do not deserve. Our people have abused the land as we image ourselves to be the source of our own blessings. Despite all this, you have promised to love your people with an everlasting love, and so we are bold to seek your mercy.

Help us respond to your infinite grace through generosity to those in need, understanding for those in dismay, courtesy toward those who oppose us, forgiveness for those who wrong us and compassion toward all who need us. As we gather with family and friends, help us speak freely and naturally of your gracious love so that our holiday table may abound with thanks as well as with food.

Through this time of thanksgiving and rest, lead us to continue in thankful living and giving, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray saying:

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.

Music *Let All Things Now Living*

Invitation to Give

Poem *"The Reason to Give Thanks"* Corrie Walker

In everything give thanks
It's what the Bible says to do
I thought, "Well that sounds easy,"
'Til I wondered what I'd do.
If all the lights were darkened,
All our energy was lost,
There were no more heaters running
And I was stuck out in the frost.
I imagined myself freezing
Even left out in the rain,
And thought, "What if there was no more shelter
To hide me from this pain?"
And then how hard it would be
To find some food somewhere,
My empty tummy crying out
It would be more than I could bear.
But even in this gloomy
And pitiful imagination
I realized I had not left out
My friends from this equation.
So then, of course, I pictured
All of this again
With loneliness, no family,
Not even just one friend.
I asked myself how I'd give thanks
If all these things were true,
And hope became an empty thing
Until I thought of You.
Of what Your Word has promised,
What Your Bible says is true.
You said: "I'll never leave or forsake you.
And though the mountains be removed
And the earth falls into the sea
I am still with you.
My love is everlasting.
I am your shield and great reward.
I have chosen you and kept you.
I have given you a sword.
I pour water on the thirsty.
I bind up the brokenhearted.
Though you turned your face against Me,
I have loved you from the start.
I have given you the garment of salvation for your clothes.
Every tear you've ever cried,
And all your pain My soul knows well.
And I have made a way to keep you.
No one plucks you from my hand.
I cannot lie.

I can't deceive you, for I am not a man."
It is with these words the Lord had spoken
That I finally understood.
All I'll ever need in this life is only in His hand.
It's true, most of us don't comprehend real need
We are truly blessed.
But when's the last time we asked ourselves,
"If all is gone, what is left?"
So even if this life brings pain
And all possessions tank
In everything or nothing,
He's the reason to give thanks.

Music *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*

Charge and Blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
 serving faithfully until Christ comes to welcome his people home.

May the grace of Christ surround you, the love of God astound you,
 and the Holy Spirit keep you, this day and forevermore. Amen.

Music *How Can I Keep from Singing*