

Worship Liturgy
First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell, MT
November 1, 2020

Words of Welcome

Prayer

Let us pray.
In life and in death you bless us, O God.
When troubles overwhelm us, you save us.
When sorrow overtakes us, you comfort us.
When death overcomes us, you overcome death and raise us to new life.
You promise us joy everlasting and, even now,
 give us glad hope and glimpses of your realm,
 which is to come when Christ makes all things new.
For calling us your children and bestowing upon us such great love,
 we give you thanks, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prelude

Call to Worship

Like the faithful ones who have gone before us, let us keep our eyes focused on Jesus,
Our hearts set on God's love,
Our hands ready to bind up the hurts of creation and all people,
Our feet ready to go the extra mile.
Let our eyes see light even within darkness
 and glimpse potential where others see dead ends.
Give us mouths eager to sing God's praise and hearts yearning to rejoice.
Like the ones who have gone before us,
Let us follow as part of the communion of saints.

Hymn 485

To God Be the Glory

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.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, forgive us for all that spoils our lives.
Forgive us because though we have seen a vision of your holiness,
 we have easily put it at the back of our minds.
Forgive us because we think we can earn a place in your affections,
 and so easily forget that place has been bought for us at great cost by Christ.
Forgive us for not following the example of so many worthy saints who have gone before us.
We tend to put them high on a shelf and forget to follow their lead.
Forgive us our complacency, our lack of obedience to your call,
 and thus assure us of our forgiveness in Christ.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear the good news!

As people born of water and the Spirit we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun.

God's grace is poured out upon us day by day.

Come to the water and remember your baptism ~

remember the saints of your faith journey.

Be thankful and live as one who has been raised to new life!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Hymn 423

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun
(vs. 1 & 5)

Prayer of Illumination

Let us pray.

Worry, fear, pain and loss cloud our vision and veil our sight, O Lord,
causing us to miss the truth of your Word.

By the power of your Spirit, lift our burdens and pierce us with your good news
that we might experience the hope and freedom of your life in us. Amen.

Scripture

Mark 6 (The Message)

Just a Carpenter

He left there and returned to his hometown. His disciples came along. On the Sabbath, he gave a lecture in the meeting place. He made a real hit, impressing everyone. "We had no idea he was this good!" they said. "How did he get so wise all of a sudden, get such ability?"

³ But in the next breath they were cutting him down: "He's just a carpenter—Mary's boy. We've known him since he was a kid. We know his brothers, James, Justus, Jude, and Simon, and his sisters. Who does he think he is?" They tripped over what little they knew about him and fell, sprawling. And they never got any further.

Jesus told them, "A prophet has little honor in his hometown, among his relatives, on the streets he played in as a child." Jesus wasn't able to do much of anything there—he laid hands on a few sick people and healed them, that's all. He couldn't get over their stubbornness. He left and made a circuit of the other villages, teaching.

The Twelve

Jesus called the Twelve to him, and sent them out in pairs. He gave them authority and power to deal with the evil opposition. He sent them off with these instructions:

"Don't think you need a lot of extra equipment for this. *You* are the equipment. No special appeals for funds. Keep it simple.

"And no luxury inns. Get a modest place and be content there until you leave.

"If you're not welcomed, not listened to, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way."

Then they were on the road. They preached with joyful urgency that life can be radically different; right and left they sent the demons packing; they brought wellness to the sick, anointing their bodies, healing their spirits.

The Death of John

King Herod heard of all this, for by this time the name of Jesus was on everyone's lips. He said, "This has to be John the Baptizer come back from the dead—that's why he's able to work miracles!"

Others said, "No, it's Elijah."

Others said, "He's a prophet, just like one of the old-time prophets."

But Herod wouldn't budge: "It's John, sure enough. I cut off his head, and now he's back, alive."

Herod was the one who had ordered the arrest of John, put him in chains, and sent him to prison at the nagging of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. For John had provoked Herod by naming his relationship with Herodias "adultery." Herodias, smoldering with hate, wanted to kill him, but didn't dare because Herod was in awe of John. Convinced that he was a holy man, he gave him special treatment. Whenever he listened to him he was miserable with guilt—and yet he couldn't stay away. Something in John kept pulling him back.

But a portentous day arrived when Herod threw a birthday party, inviting all the brass and bluebloods in Galilee. Herodias's daughter entered the banquet hall and danced for the guests. She dazzled Herod and the guests.

The king said to the girl, "Ask me anything. I'll give you anything you want." Carried away, he kept on, "I swear, I'll split my kingdom with you if you say so!"

She went back to her mother and said, "What should I ask for?"

"Ask for the head of John the Baptizer."

Excited, she ran back to the king and said, "I want the head of John the Baptizer served up on a platter. And I want it now!"

That sobered the king up fast. But unwilling to lose face with his guests, he caved in and let her have her wish. The king sent the executioner off to the prison with orders to bring back John's head. He went, cut off John's head, brought it back on a platter, and presented it to the girl, who gave it to her mother. When John's disciples heard about this, they came and got the body and gave it a decent burial.

Supper for Five Thousand

The apostles then rendezvoused with Jesus and reported on all that they had done and taught. Jesus said, "Come off by yourselves; let's take a break and get a little rest." For there was constant coming and going. They didn't even have time to eat.

So they got in the boat and went off to a remote place by themselves. Someone saw them going and the word got around. From the surrounding towns people went out on foot, running, and got there ahead of them. When Jesus arrived, he saw this huge crowd. At the sight of them, his heart broke—like sheep with no shepherd they were. He went right to work teaching them.

When his disciples thought this had gone on long enough—it was now quite late in the day—they interrupted: “We are a long way out in the country, and it’s very late. Pronounce a benediction and send these folks off so they can get some supper.”

Jesus said, “You do it. Fix supper for them.”

They replied, “Are you serious? You want us to go spend a fortune on food for their supper?”

But he was quite serious. “How many loaves of bread do you have? Take an inventory.” That didn’t take long. “Five,” they said, “plus two fish.”

Jesus got them all to sit down in groups of fifty or a hundred—they looked like a patchwork quilt of wildflowers spread out on the green grass! He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the bread to the disciples, and the disciples in turn gave it to the people. He did the same with the fish. They all ate their fill. The disciples gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. More than five thousand were at the supper.

Walking on the Sea

As soon as the meal was finished, Jesus insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead across to Bethsaida while he dismissed the congregation. After sending them off, he climbed a mountain to pray.

Late at night, the boat was far out at sea; Jesus was still by himself on land. He could see his men struggling with the oars, the wind having come up against them. At about four o’clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them, walking on the sea. He intended to go right by them. But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and screamed, scared out of their wits.

Jesus was quick to comfort them: “Courage! It’s me. Don’t be afraid.” As soon as he climbed into the boat, the wind died down. They were stunned, shaking their heads, wondering what was going on. They didn’t understand what he had done at the supper. None of this had yet penetrated their hearts.

They beached the boat at Gennesaret and tied up at the landing. As soon as they got out of the boat, word got around fast. People ran this way and that, bringing their sick on stretchers to where they heard he was. Wherever he went, village or town or country crossroads, they brought their sick to the marketplace and begged him to let them touch the edge of his coat—that’s all. And whoever touched him became well.

Meditation

Remembering the Saints in Our Lives

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn 526

For All the Saints
(vs. 1 & 4)

Invitation to Give

How can we withhold our gifts of gratitude in the face of such wondrous love?
With glad and generous hearts, let us bring our offerings to God in prayer:
We magnify your name, O God, and together exalt your name,
for you are good so good to us and gracious beyond measure.
In this life you lead us, comfort us, guide us, and redeem us in countless ways.
In death you usher us to even greater blessing,
bringing us through the great ordeal,
embracing us in your endless light,
and welcoming us to our table of goodness and plenty.
These gifts we bring are but a token of our thanks,
seeds to be planted for the growing of your kingdom,
in which we have sure and certain hope.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Charge and Blessing

This day, and every day, O taste and see that the Lord is good.
May the God of hope keep you until Christ comes to take us all home.
Depart in peace. Amen.

Postlude