

An Order of Worship
First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell, MT
November 15, 2020

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

We gather today, in the name of the One
who is the Alpha and Omega, the First and Last.
We gather today, in the name of the One
who gives all the opportunity for repentance that leads to life.
We gather today, in the name of the One
whose command created all things.
We gather today, in the name of the One
whose glory is far above earth and heaven.
We gather today, in the name of the One
who will one day make his dwelling with humanity.
We gather today, in the name of the One
who will make all things new.
Make us new, Lord. Make us new.

Music *Refiner's Fire*

Call to Confession

When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial,
the Lord our God is with us.
With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer,
let us confess our sin.

Prayer

Let us pray.
Jesus, you came to save us, yet we continue to try to save ourselves.
You taught a Way shaped by the cross, yet we look for our own directions.
You showed us how to live for others, yet we live according to the ways of the world.
Savior of the world, forgive us when we fail to proclaim you in thought, word or deed.
Live in us, that we might walk in your Way,
sharing you with others in all that we say and do.

Music *Healer of My Soul*

Assurance of Pardon

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you.
I have called you by name; you are mine.
God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth!
By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God. Amen!

Music *You Are Mine*

Prayer of Illumination

Let us pray.

O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold, and sweeter than the purest honey.

As we turn to your Scripture,

send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace ~

so that the good news of your love would shine before our eyes and delight our senses,

so that we cannot help but respond with wonder, faith and trust.

Amen.

Scripture

Mark 8 (The Message)

At about this same time he again found himself with a hungry crowd on his hands. He called his disciples together and said, “This crowd is breaking my heart. They have stuck with me for three days, and now they have nothing to eat. If I send them home hungry, they’ll faint along the way—some of them have come a long distance.”

His disciples responded, “What do you expect us to do about it? Buy food out here in the desert?”

He asked, “How much bread do you have?”

“Seven loaves,” they said.

So Jesus told the crowd to sit down on the ground. After giving thanks, he took the seven bread loaves, broke them into pieces, and gave them to his disciples so they could hand them out to the crowd. They also had a few fish. He pronounced a blessing over the fish and told his disciples to hand them out as well. The crowd ate its fill. Seven sacks of leftovers were collected. There were well over four thousand at the meal. Then he sent them home. He himself went straight to the boat with his disciples and set out for Dalmanoutha.

When they arrived, the Pharisees came out and started in on him, badgering him to prove himself, pushing him up against the wall. Provoked, he said, “Why does this generation clamor for miraculous guarantees? If I have anything to say about it, you’ll not get so much as a hint of a guarantee.”

He then left them, got back in the boat, and headed for the other side. But the disciples forgot to pack a lunch. Except for a single loaf of bread, there wasn’t a crumb in the boat. Jesus warned, “Be very careful. Keep a sharp eye out for the contaminating yeast of Pharisees and the followers of Herod.”

Meanwhile, the disciples were finding fault with each other because they had forgotten to bring bread. Jesus overheard and said, “Why are you fussing because you forgot bread? Don’t you see the point of all this? Don’t you get it at all? Remember the five loaves I broke for the five thousand? How many baskets of leftovers did you pick up?”

They said, “Twelve.”

And the seven loaves for the four thousand—how many bags full of leftovers did you get?”

“Seven.”

He said, “Do you still not get it?”

They arrived at Bethsaida. Some people brought a sightless man and begged Jesus to give him a healing touch. Taking him by the hand, he led him out of the village. He put spit in the man’s eyes, laid hands on him, and asked, “Do you see anything?”

He looked up. “I see men. They look like walking trees.” So Jesus laid hands on his eyes again. The man looked hard and realized that he had recovered perfect sight, saw everything in bright, twenty-twenty focus. Jesus sent him straight home, telling him, “Don’t enter the village.”

Jesus and his disciples headed out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. As they walked, he asked, “Who do the people say I am?”

“Some say ‘John the Baptizer,’” they said. “Others say ‘Elijah.’ Still others say ‘one of the prophets.’”

He then asked, “And you—what are you saying about me? Who am I?”

Peter gave the answer: “You are the Christ, the Messiah.”

Jesus warned them to keep it quiet, not to breathe a word of it to anyone. He then began explaining things to them: “It is necessary that the Son of Man proceed to an ordeal of suffering, be tried and found guilty by the elders, high priests, and religion scholars, be killed, and after three days rise up alive.” He said this simply and clearly so they couldn’t miss it.

But Peter grabbed him in protest. Turning and seeing his disciples wavering, wondering what to believe, Jesus confronted Peter. “Peter, get out of my way! Satan, get lost! You have no idea how God works.”

Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You’re not in the driver’s seat; *I* am. Don’t run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I’ll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for?

“If any of you are embarrassed over me and the way I’m leading you when you get around your fickle and unfocused friends, know that you’ll be an even greater embarrassment to the Son of Man when he arrives in all the splendor of God, his Father, with an army of the holy angels.”

Sermon

Prayers of the People

O God, of hope, **awaken us to your new world.**

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.

Invitation to Give

In giving to God, we grow closer to God.

Let us offer our life and labor to the One who draws near
and freely gives the treasure of eternal life in Christ.

Music *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Charge and Blessing

Go now to share Jesus Christ with your voice,
that all may hear the good news of his love.

i Go to share Jesus with your hands,
that others may sense the gospel in your work and in your touch.

Go to share Jesus with all your heart, that in your life,
others may sense the Spirit of Christ living and working among us.

Closing Music