

**An Order of Worship**  
First Presbyterian Church of Kalispell, MT  
September 20, 2020

**Words of Welcome**

**Prayer**

Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274)

Let us pray. Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart,  
    which no unworthy affection may drag downward.  
Give us an unconquered heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.  
Bestow on us also, O Lord our God,  
    understanding to know you,  
    diligence to seek you,  
    wisdom to find you  
    and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Centering Music**

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 145 (NRSV)

- 1 I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.
- 2 Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.
- 3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.
- 4 One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
- 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- 6 The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.
- 7 They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
    and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- 8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.
- 10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you.
- 11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power,
- 12 to make known to all people your mighty deeds,  
    and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- 13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
    and your dominion endures throughout all generations.  
    The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds.
- 14 The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.
- 15 The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.
- 16 You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.
- 17 The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.
- 18 The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
- 19 He fulfills the desire of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them.
- 20 The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.
- 21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
    and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

**Music**

*Morning Has Broken*

## **Call to Confession**

A prophet appeared in the wilderness, calling the people to repent,  
be baptized, and prepare the way of the Lord.  
We return to the water to confess our sins,  
giving thanks for the grace of Jesus Christ, the one who has come to save us.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Let us pray. God of all glory, you look from heaven and see us as we are ~  
not worthy to kneel at your feet, not ready to welcome your way.  
Forgive us, gracious God.  
In Christ, stoop down to save us;  
loosen the ties that bind us to sin  
and set us free to love and serve you;  
in Jesus' name we pray. Amen

## **Silent Confession**

*Were You There*  
John Anderson ~ harmonica

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

Hear the good news of the gospel:  
A voice from heaven said to Jesus,  
and so God says to each of us:  
You are my beloved child, and with you I am well pleased.  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Music**

*Amazing Grace – My Chains are Gone*

## **Prayer of Illumination**

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us,  
may the Spirit of God rest upon us.  
Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing and in our living.  
**Amen.**

## **Introduction to Mark**

### **Scripture Reading**

Mark 1 (*The Message*)

#### **John the Baptizer**

The good news of Jesus Christ—the Message!—begins here, following to the letter the scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

Watch closely: I'm sending my preacher ahead of you;  
He'll make the road smooth for you.  
Thunder in the desert!  
Prepare for God's arrival!  
Make the road smooth and straight!

John the Baptizer appeared in the wild, preaching a baptism of life-change that leads to forgiveness of sins. People thronged to him from Judea and Jerusalem and, as they

confessed their sins, were baptized by him in the Jordan River into a changed life. John wore a camel-hair habit, tied at the waist with a leather belt. He ate locusts and wild field honey.

As he preached he said, “The real action comes next: The star in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will change your life. I’m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. His baptism—a holy baptism by the Holy Spirit—will change you from the inside out.”

At this time, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. The moment he came out of the water, he saw the sky split open and God’s Spirit, looking like a dove, come down on him. Along with the Spirit, a voice: “You are my Son, chosen and marked by my love, pride of my life.”

### **The Kingdom of God**

At once, this same Spirit pushed Jesus out into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by Satan. Wild animals were his companions, and angels took care of him.

After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee preaching the Message of God: “Time’s up! God’s kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message.

Passing along the beach of Lake Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew net-fishing. Fishing was their regular work. Jesus said to them, “Come with me. I’ll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I’ll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass.” They didn’t ask questions. They dropped their nets and followed.

A dozen yards or so down the beach, he saw the brothers James and John, Zebedee’s sons. They were in the boat, mending their fishnets. Right off, he made the same offer. Immediately, they left their father Zebedee, the boat, and the hired hands, and followed.

### **Confident Teaching**

Then they entered Capernaum. When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars.

Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out, “What business do you have here with us, Jesus? Nazarene! I know what you’re up to! You’re the Holy One of God, and you’ve come to destroy us!”

Jesus shut him up: “Quiet! Get out of him!” The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out.

Everyone there was incredulous, buzzing with curiosity. “What’s going on here? A new teaching that does what it says? He shuts up defiling, demonic spirits and sends them packing!” News of this traveled fast and was soon all over Galilee.

Directly on leaving the meeting place, they came to Simon and Andrew’s house, accompanied by James and John. Simon’s mother-in-law was sick in bed, burning up with

fever. They told Jesus. He went to her, took her hand, and raised her up. No sooner had the fever left than she was up fixing dinner for them.

That evening, after the sun was down, they brought sick and evil-afflicted people to him, the whole city lined up at his door! He cured their sick bodies and tormented spirits. Because the demons knew his true identity, he didn't let them say a word.

While it was still night, way before dawn, he got up and went out to a secluded spot and prayed. Simon and those with him went looking for him. They found him and said, "Everybody's looking for you."

Jesus said, "Let's go to the rest of the villages so I can preach there also. This is why I've come." He went to their meeting places all through Galilee, preaching and throwing out the demons.

### **The Leper**

A leper came to him, begging on his knees, "If you want to, you can cleanse me."

Deeply moved, Jesus put out his hand, touched him, and said, "I want to. Be clean." Then and there the leprosy was gone, his skin smooth and healthy. Jesus dismissed him with strict orders: "Say nothing to anyone. Take the offering for cleansing that Moses prescribed and present yourself to the priest. This will validate your healing to the people." But as soon as the man was out of earshot, he told everyone he met what had happened, spreading the news all over town. So Jesus kept to out-of-the-way places, no longer able to move freely in and out of the city. But people found him, and came from all over.

## **Meditation**

### **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.

### **Invitation to Give & Prayer of Dedication**

#### **Music**

*Give Thanks*

#### **Closing Prayer**

#### **Closing Music**