

FPC Interactive Worship Bulletin for May 24, 2020

WELCOME by Tracey Cravy

Welcome to worship with First Pres. in Missoula! We are glad you are here to connect with us and to connect with the God who unites us by God's Spirit, no matter how near or far apart we are. This is our time to reset and regain our footing on the solid ground of God's promises. Certainly we need a solid place to stand amidst the uncertainty and unknowns we continue to navigate.

I want to thank the many people have contributed to our worship this week. I continue to be grateful and amazed at others' willingness to take a risk to record and share themselves in these creative ways. So thank you to Jim and Jane Hogan for calling us into worship. Thank you to Ron Righter for leading us in prayer. Thank you to Grace French for our Kids on the Couch time. Thank you to Beau Yamasaki and Teresa Merriman for leading us in our music. Thank you, Tom Mateer, for stitching all the video pieces together in beautiful ways, week after week !

Today we are mindful of Memorial Day. We remember with gratitude the generations of men and women who have served our country and sacrificed their lives. And we remember those who have survived, but live with broken bodies and haunting memories that keep them from living their lives to the fullest. We don't take for granted the cost of the freedoms we have. This year, amidst pandemic, we also remember with thanksgiving the countless health care and essential workers who have been serving our communities, putting themselves in harms' way for the well-being of all of us. Our faith reminds us that we are known and loved by a God who also remembers...remembers our heartache...remembers our tears...remembers our stories...remembers our hopes. We are held in the heart of God who knows, loves and longs to comfort and heal us. And that God welcomes us to bring our full selves to this time of worship.

In anticipation of meeting God, I invite you to pause and find your Christ candle. This is a tangible reminder that Christ is present to each of us, wherever we are. And this is a visual reminder that we are setting aside this very ordinary time to make space to encounter our extraordinary God.

Thank you, Jim and Jane, for calling us into worship!

CALL TO WORSHIP by Jim and Jane Hogan

*This new day is fresh with possibility to encounter the Living Christ.
With bright eyes, let us search!*

*This new day is fresh with possibility to understand the Living Christ.
With engaged minds, let us ponder!*

*This new day is fresh with possibility to be moved by the Living Christ.
With compassionate hearts, let us feel!*

*This new day is fresh with possibility to respond to the Living Christ.
With solid devotion, let us follow!*

*This new day is fresh with possibility to serve the Living Christ.
With humble intention, let us act!*

*This new day is fresh with possibility to praise the Living Christ.
With hearts lifted, let us worship in hope the God of new beginnings!*

OPENING SONG "This Is My Song" sung by Beau Yamasaki (NEXT PAGE)

340 This Is My Song

1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
 3 This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king - doms:

a song of peace for lands a - far and mine,
 and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine,
 thy king - dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
 But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
 Let Christ be lift - ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
 and skies are ev - ery - where as blue as mine,
 and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.

The first two stanzas of this hymn were written between the 20th century's two world wars and focus on the theme of international peace. The third stanza, by another author and added later, uses the language of the Lord's Prayer to voice a distinctly Christian perspective.

TEXT: Stanza 1-2, Cheryl Stearns; stanza 3, George Harkness, alt. 1993 #2214
 MUSIC: Jean Mahlon, 1979; arr. Don Hymond, 1911, alt. 11-10-11 1011 10
 First Sta. 1-2 © 1914, arr. 1962 The General Conv. St. J. © 1964 The General Conv.
 Music Ac. © 1953, arr. 1961 The Presbyterian Board of Christian Education, St. Louis, Missouri. John Knox Press.

... OF THE NATIONS

but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
 So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
 So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions:

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine,
 a song of peace for their land and for mine,
 my - self I give thee; let thy will be done.

PRAYER OF ADORATION by Ron Righter

Loving God,
 whose touch can heal the broken places of life,
 touch us today...

God of peace,
 whose spirit of peace can quiet our spirits
 of confusion and despair,

reassure us today...

Forgiving God,
whose call to repentance promises grace upon grace,
place your mercy in our souls today...

We confess our need to you,
and we turn to you with hearts filled with hope,
claiming the promises you have made to us.

On this day of memory,
we remember the past and look to the future.
We remember those who have served and sacrificed,
those fallen and those left with an empty chair at their table.
Meet us in the remembering with comfort and care.

We come before you, God, praising you that you have been our help in ages past.
You are our hope for years to come.
Help us to find the path that leads to your Peaceable kingdom.
May we be re-committed to being people of Peace, true peace.
May we catch a vision of how the world could live together.

Open our hearts to new faithfulness,
redirect our waywardness,
and compel us with your compassion.

You who heal the sick and liberate the imprisoned,
who bring justice in the midst of oppression,
unity in the midst of division
and strength in the midst of weakness,
pour out your Spirit of Power and Peace upon us today.

We ask this in the name of the Living Christ. Amen.

KIDS ON THE COUCH *Pentecost* by Grace French

(If you own a "Jesus Storybook Bible" at home, read the first page of "God sends help" pg. 326. We're following that story!)

-Today we're going to talk about what we celebrate next week. Does anyone know what we celebrate?

-It's a fancy word: Pentecost!

-This word refers to a story of God sending us a friend and a helper. Think about a time where you really needed a friend or a helper. Can you draw a picture of that time, and share it with us?

-My example is when I hurt my back really badly two years ago. I needed a friend to pick up groceries for me, help take me to the doctor, and make sure I could cook meals!

-We often find ourselves in times where we need someone to help us, or we're lonely and we need a friend.

-This was the scenario Jesus's friends were in. Jesus had gone to heaven, and they were alone. As it says in the Jesus Storybook Bible: "So here they were. Waiting. Actually, mostly what they were doing was just being scared and hiding. (You can't blame them- their best friend had left; the Important People and Leaders were after them; and Jesus had given them a job they didn't know how to do.)" (pg. 326)

-Next week we're going to keep talking about what happened at Pentecost, and who this helper is that God sent. As you go through this week, imagine that you're waiting with Jesus's friends... watching and wondering what this helper could look like! And listen next week for what happens next in this story of Pentecost!

SERMON *Waiting for God: Resting in God's Counsel* by Dan Cravy

SONG OF RESPONSE "Come and Find the Quiet Center" *sung by Teresa Merriman*

Come And Find The Quiet Center

Words by
Shirley Erena Murray

Music by
Benjamin Franklin White
and Jack Schrader

Chords: E, A, A/B, F#m/B

1. Come and find the quiet cen - ter in the crowd - ed life we
 2. Si - lence is a friend who claims - us, cools the heat and slows the
 3. In the Spir - it let us trav - el, o - pen to each oth - er's

4

Chords: E, A, A/B, F#m/B

lead, find the room for hope to en - ter, find the frame where we are
 pace, God it is who speaks and names - us, knows our be - ing, touch - es
 pain, let our loves and fears un - rav - el, cel - e - brate the space we

8

Chords: E, G#m7, C#m, G#m7, C#m, G#m/B

freed: Clear the cha - os and the clut - ter, clear our eyes that we can
 base, mak - ing space with - in our think - ing, lift - ing shades to show - the
 gain: There's a place for deep est dream - ing, there's a time for heart - to

12

Chords: A2, A, B7/F#, E, A, A/B, F#m/B, E

see all the things that real - ly mat - ter, be at peace, and sim - ply be.
 sun, rais - ing cour - age when we're shrink - ing, find - ing scope for faith be - gun.
 care, in the Spir - it's live - ly schem - ing there is al - ways room to spare!

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE by Tracey Cravy

God we thank you that you are the One who speaks and names us. You search us. You know us. Your Spirit's power is at work in our lives to change us. This day, we come to you in need of your leading and instruction. We so often become bogged down in the details of life and forget to see the bigger picture of life and its needs. We give ourselves to what we think is necessary and fail to see what is needful. Forgive our short-sightedness. Redirect us from chasing the urgent rather than pursuing that which lasts in your Kingdom.

Your Word has reminded us today of how Jesus met needs all around him, but did not succumb to the tyranny of demands and many clamouring voices.

We tend to think in terms of doing things primarily where we live.

Jesus, you thought of people elsewhere who had needs.

We tend to let the world define us.

Jesus, you were guided by your identity as God's Beloved.

We tend to live life at a frenetic pace.

Jesus, you went out to the desert alone and prayed to find renewal.

Strengthen us to follow your example.

As we walk through our days, we ask that you will provide us a greater vision. Interrupt our frenetic activity. Help us to choose moments of quiet before you which make clearer our mission and refresh us for it. Help us to see all people as your people and to know that we have the responsibility to love them. Help us to have the courage to "stop" and allow you to remind us of our Belovedness and redefine our priorities.

We ask your care for our suffering, groaning world. We ask for healing, for wholeness, for enough medical care and equipment, for strength for care-givers. We ask for a vaccine against CoVid 19. Give wisdom to leaders making decisions about when and how to re-open our communities. Give us all hearts of kindness, humility,

patience and consideration amidst differing opinions about how and when to re-open our communities. Forgive our pride that brings division. We ask for hope, light and support for those struggling with mental illness. Those for whom the stress of these recent months has depleted their resources and increased their despair. Provide for those who are lonely. Provide for those who are hungry. Provide for those who are afraid. Provide for those who need work. Provide for those who are homeless.

We trust that you hear our prayers. In offering them to you, may we also rest in your care and relax in your embrace...knowing we are your Beloved, remembering we are called to live for your Kingdom purposes beyond ourselves.

Holy Spirit, unite us as we pray the prayer you taught your friends, Jesus, saying, "Our Father..."

OFFERING AND SENDING by *Pastor Dan Cravy*

Brothers and Sisters,

-We're so glad to announce that FPC will be regathering for a shortened, in-person Summer Worship Service in our Fellowship Hall starting June 7 (this will be the first Sunday in Montana's Phase Two).

We understand that many of you will wish to wait on in-person services. We've also been grateful to hear such encouraging feedback on the recorded worship services to which so many of you have contributed (with multiple hundreds more people able to participate per week than usual). So we'll continue to provide recorded services, along with print bulletins and sermons.

We can also now welcome small groups and meetings of 10 or fewer in our church buildings. By next week we'll welcome groups of up to 50. Please connect with the church office if you'd like to begin meetings.

The Office will be open in June – that is, next week - Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-3pm. Guests will be received at the office window.

By now you're used to the safety protocols of our new normal. As we endeavor to follow Christ's sacrificial way of washing feet, we ask that you also take steps to care for one another by:

- Staying home if you're sick
- Using hand sanitizer when you enter the buildings
- Practicing 6-foot social distancing
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue
- Helping sanitize your space after meeting
- Not bringing food and drink to share
- You are also asked to wear a cloth face covering for worship, and to wear a cloth face covering in the church buildings while moving to or from your seating or workspace – recognizing that while strongly encouraging this practice, the Health Dept has also suggested 'some individuals may not be able to wear or tolerate wearing a cloth face covering.' Please bring your own; we will also have some disposable masks available at the doors.

-Next Sunday is Pentecost when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit who draws us and drives us into God's arms. We invite you to wear red wherever you may worship as a sign of the tongues like fire that came upon the disciples at Pentecost.

-Want to thank you for your offerings to God's work and generosity to our church through your mail and online giving. It is humbling to see how the Lord is providing for our congregation to be a sign of good news.

-So even as the Lord has invited us to Stop and rest in his grace today, I invite you to reflect on the meaning of Sabbath – to continue resting in the truth that your beloved-ness is a gift of Gods' unmerited favor, to continue trusting that there is nothing you can do to earn or to diminish your worth. So my friends instead of striving and straining to get it all done and make everything better, be God's, and let what you do and don't do flow your rest in his counsel.

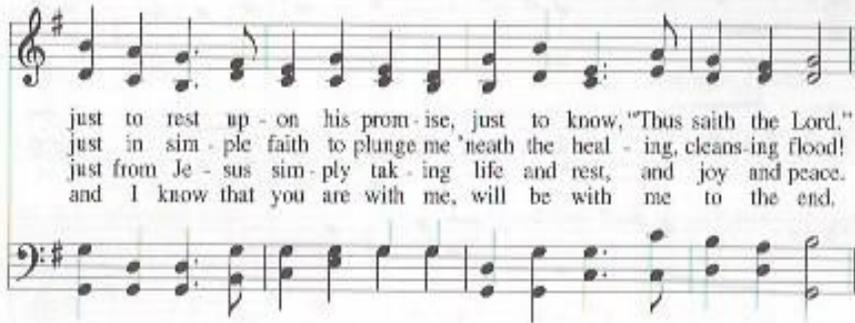
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be yours now and into the life that is surely coming. Amen.

SENDING SONG "Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus" sung by Teresa Merriman

442 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus



1 'Tis so sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to take him at his word,
2 O how sweet to trust in Je - sus, just to trust his cleans - ing blood,
3 Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Je - sus, just from sin and self to cease,
4 I'm so glad I learned to trust you, pre - cious Je - sus, Sav - ior, Friend,



just to rest up - on his prom - ise, just to know, "Thus saith the Lord,"
just in sim - ple faith to plunge me 'neath the heal - ing, cleans - ing flood!
just from Je - sus sim - ply tak - ing life and rest, and joy and peace,
and I know that you are with me, will be with me to the end,

Refrain



Je - sus, Je - sus, how I trust him! How I've proved him o'er and o'er!



Je - sus, Je - sus, pre - cious Je - sus! O for grace to trust him more!

WORDS: Louis M. K. Ford (1850-1917)
MUSIC: William J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

TRUST IN JESUS
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