

WELCOME and OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

PRELUDE *Let All Together Praise Our God* *J.S. Bach*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE: Loving JOY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy God, You are the source of love
You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life
You are the one who helps us reach out in love
Especially to those whose fear makes it hard for them to love.

The world is not asleep—

It longs, it groans, it waits, trembling

We feel the presence of the divine,

We lift our heads and gaze into the darkness

We gather in preparation,

for good news is about to be proclaimed.

We gather in expectation,

for joy is about to explode in our midst.

We wait for you Lord, we wait for you.

***OPENING HYMN** *I've Got the Joy* *See Screen*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us Lord for the times we refuse to listen to those who announce your presence. Forgive us when we ignore the cries that come from the wilderness. Allow us to understand that, like John the Baptist, we are unworthy before the Lord of all. And yet you call us beloved. Help us to live into our baptisms. Remind us of the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ and empower us to be the continuation of that Good News.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved. With the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

ALL: And also, with you

Please share peace with your neighbor.

Peace Response *My Peace* *See Screen*

GREETING and PRAYER OF DAY

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you

MESSAGE IN MUSIC *Were You There on That ChristmasNight*

Natalie Sleeth

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 3:1-15

RESPONSE *Gloria Patri* *GTG 581*

SERMON Loving Joy

HYMN *Make a Joyful Noise to God* *GTG 54*

THE PRAYERS

L: Lord, in your mercy **All: Hear our prayer.**

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People

COLLECTION OF OFFERING

Offertory *What Child Is This* *Arr. Paul Manz*

***Response** *Doxology* *GTG 606*

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

All: All-knowing never changing God, teach us to use these gifts to create greater access, insights, and wisdom for people within and outside of these walls. Use these gifts to reform us more and more into your image and likeness. Amen!

COMMUNION

God is with us

With us now

And so we lift our hearts in gratitude and joy

Holy Living God, Creator of all heaven and nature

You have breathed into us the gift of life

You inhabit our very being

And even when we turn away

You are there, part of us, breath by breath,

Heartbeat by heartbeat

You have drawn us into love time and time again,

Reminding us that we were made for Joy.

And so with your people on earth and with all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn of loving joy

Joy to the World

The Lord's Prayer

***CLOSING HYMN** *Joy to the World* **GTG 134**

***THE CHARGE**

***BENEDICTION**

***SENDING** L: Now go in peace to love and serve our Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World* *Arr. Lorie Line*

Please join us in the Social Hall for coffee hour following the worship service.
We'd love to see you there!

Ministering in our Worship

Interim Pastor

Liturgist

Outreach Coordinator

Ministers

Director of Music Ministry/Organist

Choir Director

Praise Band

Reverend Risa Paul

Jane Hashley

Jane Surmi

All the People

Joan Schmidt

Alex Rosenleaf

Joey Dresen

*Please stand as you are able

First Presbyterian Church

Embracing Grace

Embracing Community

Welcome

Great Falls, Montana



Sunday, December 7, 2025

We Are The Body of Christ

1315 Central Avenue, Great Falls, Montana 59401-3833

(406) 453-1411

Website: firstpresgfmt.org

Facebook: facebook.com/firstpresgfmt



Baby to be born!
A Light will shine
But not yet.

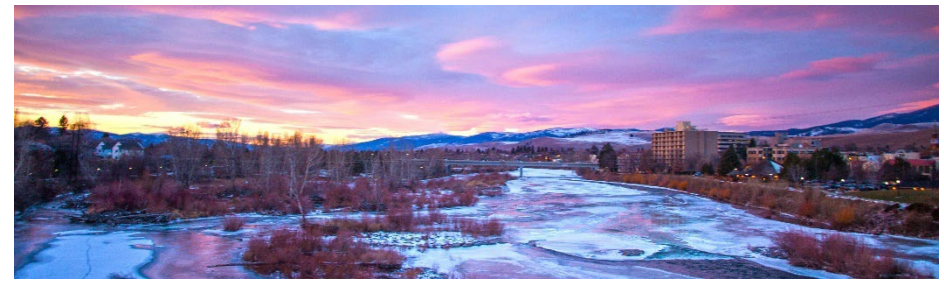
Tied fast to the dirt,
Traditions entangle our feet
Family, presents, people
A Presence will be born!
But not yet

Light is dim
Days are short
Snow is deep.
The Son will rise
But not yet

Look East, dark upon dark
Our Redeemer will come
But not yet

Soon.

~Jane Surmi



Calendar of Events — December 7 – 21

Sunday, Dec 7: Communion/Second Sunday of Advent
Decorating the Church Continues (after Fellowship)

Tuesday, Dec 9, 10:00am: Iris Service
3:00pm: Finance
Committee 3:00pm: Worship Committee

Wednesday, Dec 10, 5:30pm: Potluck Dinner & a Movie
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

Thursday, Dec 11, 8:30am: Coffee @ Miss Kitty's ☕
10:30am: Grandview Service
6:30pm: Session Meeting

Saturday, Dec 13, 11:30am: PW Christmas Tea

Sunday, Dec 14, 10:00am: Third Sunday in Advent
11:30pm: Personal Prayer in Sanctuary
3:00pm: Blue Christmas

Wednesday, Dec 17, 10:00am: Galatians-Deep Dive
6:00pm: Mid-Week Ministry

Thursday, Dec 18, 8:30am: Coffee @ Miss Kitty's ☕

Friday, Dec 19: Newsletter Deadline

Sunday, Dec 21, 10:00am: Fourth Sunday in Advent
11:30am: Corporate Prayer in Graham Parlor

Coming Soon

Wednesday, Dec 24, 6:30pm: Christmas Eve Service