

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser  
Liturgist: Kathy Chambers  
Organist: Ann Swisher

*"We are called upon not to be successful, but to be faithful."*  
- Mother Teresa, Catholic nun and founder of the Missionaries of Charity

*\*Please stand if you are able*

## PRELUDE      “Rondeau from Sinfonies de Fanfares” Jean Joseph Mouret (1682-1738)

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In all our weakness and strength,  
with our youth-filled spirits and aging bodies,

**ALL: we come to be your people, O God.**

One: Strong in faith and eager with questions,  
singing our praise and whispering our prayers,

**ALL: we come to be your people, O God.**

One: Filled with saintly determination yet mindful of our human limitations,

**ALL: we come to be your people, O God.**

One: Made strong in your endless love

we know ourselves to be yours and

**ALL: we come to be your people, O God.**

One: May we truly become your people today.

\*LIVMAN, "E. All the S.,"

For all the saints who worth the  
labors rest,  
who thee by faith  
before the world confessed,

Thy name, O Jesus,  
be forever blest.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress,  
and their might;  
thou, Lord, their captain in the  
well-fought fight;

Thou, in the darkness drear,  
their one true light.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O blest communion,  
fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle;  
they in glory shine;

Yet all are one in thee,  
for all are thine.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce,  
the warfare long,  
steals on the ear the distant  
triumph song,

And hearts are brave again,  
and arms are strong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds,  
from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams  
in the countless host,

Singing to Father, Son,  
and Holy Ghost,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: Mothering God, we have chased after foolish things, and spent our strength on vanity; our labor has been in vain. Deliver us from arrogance and forgive our self-concern, that we may find our reward with you, as servants of your dream.**

**Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.** *(a moment of silent confession)*

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Beloved, you are forgiven in Christ, the Lamb who bears our sin. Happy are those who put their trust in God, and delight to do God's will, for God makes our footing sure upon the rock of Christ.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

\*THE PEACE

\*“Gloria Patri”

GtG #581

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen, amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 49:1-7

Page 1138

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM READING

Psalm 40

Page 878

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

John 1:29-42

Page 1647

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“The Light of the World”

Don Besig, Nancy Price

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Page 1771

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

\*HYMN

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

GtG #724

O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou forever near me,  
my Master and my friend;

I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me!  
The world is ever near:  
I see the sights that dazzle;  
the tempting sounds I hear.

My foes are ever near me,  
around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer  
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;

O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,

thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be.

And, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my friend.

## \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

## *The Heidelberg Catechism*

One: What do you understand by “the communion of saints?”

**ALL:** First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts. Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

## THE OFFERING

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*Offering plates are located in the back of the sanctuary. You may also give online at [fpchelena.org/giving](http://fpchelena.org/giving) or by mailing a check to First Presbyterian Church 535 N. Ewing St., Helena, MT 59601.*

\*DOXOLOGY “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” GtG #606

Praise God, from whom all  
blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here  
below;

Praise him above,  
ye heavenly host;

praise Father, Son,  
and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*OFFERING PRAYER

\*HYMN

“Shall We Gather at the River”

GtG #375

Shall we gather at the river,  
where bright angel feet have trod,  
with its crystal tide forever  
flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river,  
washing up its silver spray,  
we will walk and worship ever,  
all the happy golden day.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.

Ere we reach the shining river,  
lay we every burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver,  
and provide a robe and crown.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.  
Soon we'll reach the shining river;

soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
soon our happy hearts will quiver  
with the melody of peace.

Yes, we'll gather at the river,  
the beautiful, the beautiful river;  
gather with the saints at the river  
that flows by the throne of God.

\*CHARGE

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                    "Hornpipe from the Water Music"  
                                  G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

## Announcements

### **Welcome!**

A special welcome to visitors joining us for worship today. If you have children with you, feel free to hand them one of the cloth bags hanging in the back of the sanctuary — they are filled with books and toys! Hymns are found in the “Glory to God” (GtG) hymnal in the pews, as well as on the screen. Please sign the red fellowship pad in your pew and pass it to your neighbor. It is our tradition to remain seated during the Postlude at the conclusion of the service. After the service, please join us for refreshments and conversation!

### **Doors Locked During Service**

Session decided to lock the main entrance doors during the worship service. The doors are locked from 10:15 to 11 a.m., and unlocked again between 11 a.m. and noon.

### **Hymn Requests**

If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to be sung in worship, please email Pastor Emily at [pastor@fpchelena.org](mailto:pastor@fpchelena.org), and she will be sure to incorporate it into a future worship service when it connects with the themes of our Scripture readings.

### **Shirt Orders Due Today**

Orders for an FPC shirt are due today. Visit with Barb Leland for details. The goal will be to wear our shirts to church on the Congregational Meeting Day, Sunday, February 8.

## **Church Office Closed Monday, Jan. 19**

The church office will be closed Monday, Jan. 19, in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

### **Warm Hearts Drive**

The Warm Hearts drive has begun and will conclude at the end of January, to be gifted on Valentine's Day. The drive collects new blankets and towels. Your donations will serve Family Promise, God's Love, Good Samaritan Ministries, Helena Community Offender Reentry Program, Rocky Mountain Development Center, The Friendship Center, and YWCA. Warm Hearts is an ecumenical ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Associates of Helena "to witness and share the mission of Jesus who calls us to love God with our whole hearts and love our neighbor even as God loves us."

### **Annual Meeting Sunday, Feb. 8**

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, February 8, after the worship service. Committee annual reports are due in the church office by Monday, January 19.

### **You're Invited!**

<b>Monday, Jan. 19</b>	<i>Church Office Closed</i>
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 20</b>	Session 1 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, Jan. 21</b>	Choir 2 p.m.
<b>Friday, Jan. 23</b>	Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, Jan. 25</b>	Worship Service 10 a.m. Social Time 11 a.m.