

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Barb Leland

Pianist: Merle Korizek

"We don't pray the way people use magic. Prayer is not an incantation to wake a sleeping God. We pray as an act of hope in God's goodness. We pray because we believe that God, who makes no promises of our safety and comfort, loves us and takes care of us. We pray because our lives are part of the big story of God's work of redemption. And we pray to a Creator who has himself tasted death."

-Tish Harrison Warren, *Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

"This is My Father's World"

Franklin L. Sheppard

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Elizabeth Dilley

One: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

**ALL: God is our shelter and refuge on the days of trouble,
and our hope and joy on the days of celebration!**

One: Day after day, we seek God's face and the assurance of God's holy love:

**ALL: O God, do not turn from us or hide your face from us!
Be our guide and our light instead!**

One: One thing we ask of God:

**ALL: That we may live in God's dwelling place all the days of our life,
and never cease to behold the beauty of God's home.**

One: Beloved of God, enter this worship in thanksgiving,
for God is among and within us!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

*HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

GtG #12

Immortal, invisible,
God only wise,
in light inaccessible
hid from our eyes,

Most blessed, most glorious,
the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious,
thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting,
and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting,
thou rulest in might:

Thy justice, like mountains high
soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains
of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest,
to both great and small.
In all life thou livest,
the true life of all.

We blossom and flourish like
leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish;
but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory;
thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee,
all veiling their sight.

All praise we would render;
O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light
hideth thee!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: For failing to love others as you have loved us...God of grace,

ALL: forgive us.

One: For wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods...God of grace,

ALL: forgive us.

One: For plundering the earth and abusing the planet...God of grace,

ALL: forgive us.

One: For fearing those who are strange to us and ignoring those in need... God of grace,

ALL: forgive us.

One: For losing heart and abandoning hope...God of grace,

ALL: forgive us.

One: For all the ways we turn from you...God of grace,

ALL: forgive us.

One: We offer our prayers in the name of the One who saves us, Jesus Christ.

(a moment of silent confession)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*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 9:1-7

Page 1072

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-23

Page 1500

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Page 1772

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“God is Speaking”
by Joseph Landreth-Smith

Video

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM READING

Psalm 27

Page 864

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*HYMN

“When Peace like a River”

GtG #840

When peace like a river
attendeth my way,
when sorrows
like sea billows roll,

Whatever my lot,
thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well
with my soul.

It is well with my soul;
it is well;
it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,

That Christ hath regarded my
helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood
for my soul.

It is well with my soul;

it is well;
it is well with my soul.

He lives: O the bliss
of this glorious thought.
My sin, not in part,
but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross
and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
O my soul!

It is well with my soul;
it is well;
it is well with my soul.

Lord, hasten the day when our
faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back
as a scroll,

The trumpet shall sound
and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well
with my soul.

It is well with my soul;
it is well;
it is well with my soul.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Heidelberg Catechism

ONE: What is true faith?

ALL: True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which we hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the

Holy Spirit creates in us by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to us also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Prayer"

Ludwig van Beethoven

Offering plates are located in the back of the sanctuary. You may also give online at 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

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"

GtG #837

What a fellowship,
what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness,
what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,
(Leaning on Jesus,
leaning on Jesus)

safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning, leaning,
(Leaning on Jesus,
leaning on Jesus)
leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk
in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path
grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,
(Leaning on Jesus,
leaning on Jesus)
safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning, leaning,
(Leaning on Jesus,
leaning on Jesus)
leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread,
what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace
with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning,
(Leaning on Jesus,
leaning on Jesus)
safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning, leaning,
(Leaning on Jesus,
leaning on Jesus)
leaning on the everlasting arms.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Let All Things Now Living”
Traditional Welsh Melody

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.

Warm Hearts Drive Wraps Up This Week

The Warm Hearts Drive concludes this week, with donations to be gifted to several local agencies on Valentine’s Day. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Point-in-Time Dinner

FPC is combining with Plymouth Congregational Church to provide dinner during the Point-in-Time Survey at God’s Love on Thursday, Jan. 29. FPC will provide the meal, and PCC will provide the servers. The survey is a count of homeless individuals in our community. Various agencies use that data to track the number, demographics, and needs of those individuals. For details, visit with Carol Gneckow.

Join Us For A Basketball Game or Two!

Join your fellow Presbyterian congregation members at Carroll College basketball games Saturday, Jan. 31, in the college PE Center. Meet in the lobby at 4:45pm. Women play at 5 pm, and men play at 7pm. OR.....come later, if you'd like — peek in the gym and find a group of your Presbyterian friends sitting together and then join us. (If you'd rather, you can text Barb and she'll tell you where the group is seated. Her number is: 406-431-5854.

Annual Meeting Sunday, Feb. 8

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, February 8, after the worship service. We plan to have the Annual Report available next Sunday.

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, and she will be sure to incorporate it into a future worship service when it connects with the themes of our Scripture readings.

You're Invited!

Wednesday, Jan. 28	Choir 2 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 30	Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 1	Worship Service with Communion 10 a.m. Social Time 11 a.m.

Staff

Ministers—Every Member	Organist—Ann Swisher
Pastor—Rev. Emily Cowser	Treasurer—Leo Potter
Director of Music & Media—Les Cramer	Office Coordinator—Julie Young

FPC Elders

Patti Borsberry
(Worship Chair)

John Bryan
(Christian Ed Chair)

Jim Meyer
(Administration Chair)

Jeff Chaffee
(Personnel Chair)

Butch Plowman
(Building & Grounds Chair)

Barb Leland
(Friendship Chair)

Carol Gneckow
(Mission & Outreach Chair)

John Gneckow, Clerk of Session

FPC Deacons

BJ Burns

Kathy Chambers

Jill Cook

Bonnie Anderson

Ward Stiles, Vice-Moderator

Vicky Bryan

Art Bumgardner, Moderator

Rena Bumgardner

Ria Caussyn

Carole Massman



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Pastor Emily Cowser

Phone: 406-442-4775 **Email:** pastor@fpchelena.org

Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189, Wednesdays 6 p.m. & Saturdays 9 a.m.