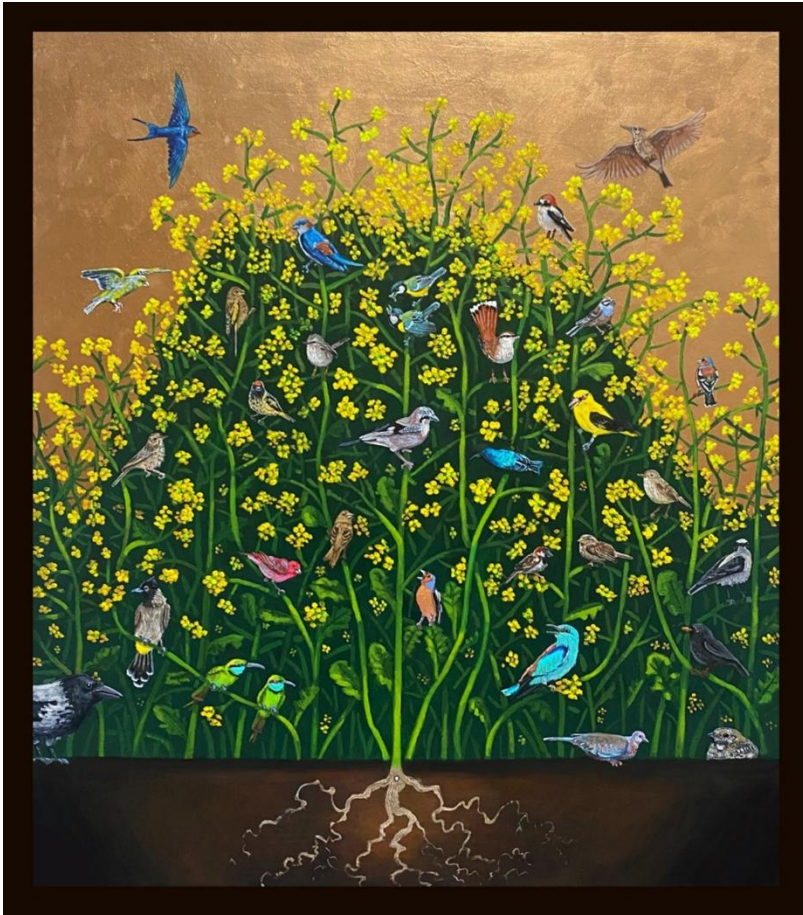


*Growing in Faith, Supporting One Another,
and Sharing Christ's Love*



Cover Icon: *The Parable of the Mustard Seed* by Kelly Latimore

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

**535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601**

Sunday, October 11, 2026 ~ 10 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: John Coefield

Organist: Ann Swisher

"The function of prayer is not to influence God, but rather to change the nature of the one who prays."

-Søren Kierkegaard, Danish theologian and philosopher

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

"Fantasia"

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1705)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Joanna Harader

One: Gentle and patient

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Intentional and persistent

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: In times of grief and in times of praise

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Through the struggles and through the victories

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Unexpected and planned

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: In a still small voice and in power

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Spontaneous and prepared

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: In our willingness and in our reluctance

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Jesus is eager to show us the way. May we enter worship open to his leading.

*HYMN

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

GtG #8

Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound
the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:

O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Savior, whose almighty word
the winds and waves
submissive heard,
who walked upon
the foaming deep,
and calm amid its rage did sleep:

O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who did brood
upon the chaos wild and rude,
and bade its angry tumult cease,
and gave,
for fierce confusion, peace:

O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
all travelers guard in danger's hour;
from rock and tempest,
fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go;

Thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad praise from air
and land and sea.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: God of heaven and earth, we give you thanks for sending us Jesus Christ in your name. Even though we profess to follow him, we confess that in times of trial we too often deny him. Forgive us and heal us, we pray. Help us to put our faith not in the princes of this world, but only in the Prince of Peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. *(a moment of silent confession)*

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Beloved, hear the good news: Jesus Christ came to stand in the breach to reconcile us to God. We are forgiven and freed!

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.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING

Psalm 106 (*The Message*)

Read Responsively

One: Hallelujah!

Thank God! And why?

ALL: Because he's good, because his love lasts.

One: But who on earth can do it—

decclaim God's mighty acts, broadcast all his praises?

**ALL: You're one happy man when you do what's right,
one happy woman when you form the habit of justice.**

One: Remember me, God, when you enjoy your people;
include me when you save them;

**ALL: I want to see your chosen succeed,
celebrate with your celebrating nation,
join the Hallelujahs of your pride and joy!**

One: We've sinned a lot, both we and our parents;
We've fallen short, hurt a lot of people.

**ALL: After our parents left Egypt,
they took your wonders for granted,
forgot your great and wonderful love.**

One: They were barely beyond the Red Sea
when they defied the High God
—the very place he saved them!
—the place he revealed his amazing power!

He rebuked the Red Sea so that it dried up on the spot
—he paraded them right through!
—no one so much as got wet feet!

**ALL: He saved them from a life of oppression,
pried them loose from the grip of the enemy.**

**Then the waters flowed back on their oppressors;
there wasn't a single survivor.**

One: *Then* they believed his words were true
and broke out in songs of praise.

**ALL: But it wasn't long before they forgot the whole thing,
wouldn't wait to be told what to do.**

One: They only cared about pleasing themselves in that desert,
provoked God with their insistent demands.

**ALL: He gave them exactly what they asked for—
but along with it they got an empty heart.**

One: One day in camp some grew jealous of Moses,
also of Aaron, holy priest of God.

The ground opened and swallowed Dathan,
then buried Abiram's gang.

Fire flared against that rebel crew
and torched them to a cinder.

**ALL: They cast in metal a bull calf at Horeb
and worshiped the statue they'd made.**

**They traded the Glory
for a cheap piece of sculpture—a grass-chewing bull!**

One: They forgot God, their very own Savior,
who turned things around in Egypt,

Who created a world of wonders in the Land of Ham,
who gave that stunning performance at the Red Sea.

Fed up, God decided to get rid of them—
and except for Moses, his chosen, he would have.

**ALL: But Moses stood in the gap and deflected God's anger,
prevented it from destroying them utterly.**

One: They went on to reject the Blessed Land,
didn't believe a word of what God promised.

**ALL: They found fault with the life they had
and turned a deaf ear to God's voice.**

One: Exasperated, God swore
that he'd lay them low in the desert,

**ALL: Scattering their children here and there,
strewing them all over the earth.**

One: Then they linked up with Baal Peor,
attending funeral banquets and eating idol food.

**ALL: That made God so angry
that a plague spread through their ranks;**

One: Phinehas stood up and pled their case
and the plague was stopped.

**ALL: This was counted to his credit;
his descendants will never forget it.**

One: They angered God again at Meribah Springs;
this time Moses got mixed up in their evil;

**ALL: Because they defied God yet again,
Moses exploded and lost his temper.**

One: They didn't wipe out those godless cultures
as ordered by God;

**ALL: Instead they intermarried with the heathen,
and in time became just like them.**

One: They worshiped their idols,
were caught in the trap of idols.

**ALL: They sacrificed their sons and daughters
at the altars of demon gods.**

One: They slit the throats of their babies,
murdered their infant girls and boys.

**ALL: They offered their babies to Canaan's gods;
the blood of their babies stained the land.**

One: Their way of life reeked;
they lived like prostitutes.

**ALL: And God was furious—a wildfire anger;
he couldn't stand even to look at his people.**

One: He turned them over to the heathen
so that the people who hated them ruled them.

**ALL: Their enemies made life hard for them;
they were tyrannized under that rule.**

One: Over and over God rescued them, but they never learned—
until finally their sins destroyed them.

**ALL: Still, when God saw the trouble they were in
and heard their cries for help,
He remembered his Covenant with them,
and, immense with love, took them by the hand.**

One: He poured out his mercy on them
while their captors looked on, amazed.

**ALL: Save us, God, our God!
Gather us back out of exile
So we can give thanks to your holy name
and join in the glory when you are praised!
Blessed be God, Israel's God!
Bless now, bless always!
Oh! Let everyone say Amen!
Hallelujah!**

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Philippians 4:1-9

Page 1829

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM "In This Sacred Moment"
Christina Grubb, David Angerman, Joseph Martin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING Mark 14:32-42

Page 1580

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON—Adventures of the Disciples: Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

*HYMN

“Be Thou My Vision”

GtG #450

Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me,
save that thou art;

Thou my best thought,
by day or by night,
waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom,
and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee
and thou with me, Lord;

Thou my soul's shelter,
and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward,
O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not,
nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance,
now and always;

Thou and thou only,
first in my heart,
High King of Heaven,
my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven,
my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys,
O bright heaven's Sun!

Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be my vision,
O Ruler of all.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from The Westminster Larger Catechism*

ALL: Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of God's Spirit, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of God's mercies.

One: How doth the Spirit help us to pray?

ALL: We not knowing what to pray for as we ought, the Spirit helpeth our infirmities, by enabling us to understand both for whom, and what, and how prayer is to be made; and by working and quickening in our hearts (although not in all persons, nor at all times in the same measure) those apprehensions, affections, and graces, which are requisite for the right performance of that duty.

One: For whom are we to pray?

ALL: We are to pray for the whole Church of Christ upon earth, for magistrates, and ministers, for ourselves, our siblings, yea, our enemies, and for all sorts of people living, or that shall live hereafter; but not for the dead.

One: For what things are we to pray?

ALL: We are to pray for all things tending to the glory of God, the welfare of the church, our own or others' good; but not for anything that is unlawful.

One: How are we to pray?

ALL: We are to pray with an awful apprehension of the majesty of God, and deep sense of our own unworthiness, necessities, and sins; with penitent,

thankful, and enlarged hearts; with understanding, faith, sincerity, fervency, love, and perseverance, waiting upon God with humble submission to God's will.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Gigue"

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

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**

"Take My Life"

GtG #697

Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move

at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Tune”
William Boyce (1711-1779)

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.

Special Congregational Meeting Today

Session has called a special congregational meeting for today in the sanctuary following the service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. If you would like to join the meeting via Zoom, please use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85185156598?pwd=3b3IBlyYgWd0XSbWapNGnLSdQPZ6xA.1>.

Please join us for this important meeting.

Hidden Helena Tour Saturday

FPC will be one of the buildings featured in this year’s Hidden Helena Tour Saturday, Oct. 17, noon to 5 p.m. Sponsored by Preserve Montana, the tour is designed to show visitors the “hidden stories and curious spaces” inside some of the most beloved historic buildings in Helena. Mission & Outreach is coordinating hosts to greet visitors and lead tours of our building. Visit with Carol Gneckow for details. For ticket information and tour details, visit PreserveMontana.org

2027 Pledge Cards Available

As you consider your pledge for the coming year, we invite you to pray about how God is calling you to support this shared ministry. Every gift matters. Every act of service matters. Together, by God’s grace, we can continue to grow in faith, strengthen our life together, and share Christ’s love with a world in need. Today you can find an envelope with your name, a letter from the Admin Committee, and a pledge card in the social area outside the sanctuary. Please fill out the pledge card and return it by Monday, Nov. 2, so we can make a realistic budget for 2027. Additional pledge cards available from the church office.

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.

Emergency Pastoral Care

Pastor Emily will be out of the office Oct. 12-26. If you or someone you know needs emergency pastoral care during that time, please call CLP Dianna Goodman at 406-431-8964.

Synergos Visit November 1-3

From Sunday, November 1 through Tuesday, November 3, The First Presbyterian Church of Helena will host Rev. Jessica Crane Munoz and Dr. Trace Haythorn of Synergos, a residency and renewal program of the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. The visit blends worship, congregational engagement, and strategic conversation designed to help us discern our future direction. Our session and Strategic Planning Team will meet with Jessica and Trace throughout those days, and the whole congregation is invited to join us on Sunday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 for a reflective dinner gathering. We will engage in small-group conversation around values and wishes for the church's future, using guided questions to creatively imagine what our ministry could look like in this new era.

You're Invited!

Monday, Oct. 12	Mission & Outreach 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 13	Admin Committee 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 14	Buildings & Grounds 10 a.m. Congregational Life 1 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 2 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 16	Friday Bible Study 12/noon
Saturday, Oct. 17	Hidden Helena Tour Noon-5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 18	Worship Service 10 a.m. Social Time 11 a.m.

Shaped by the grace of our sovereign God, we follow Jesus Christ
by growing in faith, supporting one another, and sharing
Christ's love in our community and the wider world.

Staff

Ministers—Every Member

Pastor—Rev. Emily Cowser

Director of Music & Media—Les Cramer

Organist—Ann Swisher

Treasurer—Leo Potter

Office Coordinator—Julie Young

FPC Elders

John Bryan

(Congregational Life Co-Chair)

Dianna Goodman

(Nominating Chair)

Jim Meyer

(Administration Co-Chair)

Butch Plowman

(Buildings & Grounds Chair)

Carol Gneckow

(Mission & Outreach Chair)

Patti Borsberry

(Congregational Life Co-Chair)

Matthew Richards

(Administration Co-Chair)

Max Oliver, Clerk of Session

FPC Deacons

Bonnie Anderson

Ward Stiles, Vice-Moderator

Vicky Bryan

Art Bumgardner, Moderator

Rena Bumgardner

Ria Caussyn

Carole Massman

Wanda Jewell

Alysia Ryan



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

535 North Ewing Street ~ Helena, MT 59601

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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.