

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Emily Cowser

Liturgist: John Coefield

Organist: Ann Swisher

"Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."
(Often attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, but the source is unknown)

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

"Cantilena"

Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: No matter how far from God we seem to be,
we do not lose heart:

ALL: For the days are surely coming, says the Lord.

One: No matter how many obstacles we face in life, in the church,
we do not lose heart:

**ALL: For the days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will forgive and restore my people;
when I will equip them for every good work;
and when I will grant justice,
for I hear their cries day and night.**

One: People of the good news, let us worship God together.

*HYMN

"Open My Eyes, That I May See"

GtG #451

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands
the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes; illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear.

And while the wave notes
fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears; illumine me,
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere.
Open my heart, and let me prepare
love with thy children
thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart; illumine me,
Spirit divine!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Written by Bruce Prewer

ALL: You call us

and we ignore your whisper, listening to the voices of this world.

You call us

and we choose a different path, following our own desires.

You call us

to be your voice in this world,

to be your hands in this world,

to be your feet in this world,

to proclaim your peace, your comfort,

your forgiveness, healing, love and grace.

Forgive us, open our ears, call us again, and use us.

(a moment of silent prayer)

***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 **Jeremiah 31:27-37**

Page 1227

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING **Psalms 119:97-105**

Page 961

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING **Luke 18:1-8**

Page 1628

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

CHOIR ANTHEM **“Sing Now To God!”**

Gilbert M. Martin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING **2 Timothy 3:14—4:8**

Page 1855

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

***HYMN** **“Take Us As We Are, O God”**

GtG #312

Take us as we are, O God,
and claim us as your own.
As once you chose to tell your love

in human flesh and bone,
so let our lives be used to make
your saving purpose known.

Bless us for your service, Lord;
no power we devise
will ever give us strength enough
or make us truly wise,
yet by your promise we can know
the peace your grace supplies.

Break us open to disclose
how brokenness can heal,
wherever broken loaves suffice
to give a crowd a meal
and graves break open to release
new life from death's dread seal.

Give us to the world you love
as light and salt and yeast,
that we may nourish in your name
the last, the lost, the least,
until at length you call us all
to your unending feast.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from The Confession of 1967

ALL: The church disperses to serve God wherever we, its members, are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Our prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Our witness is the church's evangelism. Our daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of our relations with other people is the measure of the church's fidelity. Each of us is the church in the world, endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry and responsible for the integrity of our witness in our own particular situation.

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 or by mailing a check to First Presbyterian Church 535 N. Ewing St., Helena, MT 59601.

OFFERTORY “Blessed Are You Who Live in Faith”

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

*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

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

*HYMN “We Are One in the Spirit” GtG #300

We are one in the Spirit;
we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit;
we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity
may one day be restored:

And they’ll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they’ll know we are Christians
by our love.

We will walk with each other;
we will walk hand in hand;

we will walk with each other;
we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news
that God is in our land:

And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.

We will work with each other;
we will work side by side;
we will work with each other;
we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity
and save human pride:

And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.

All praise to the Father,
from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus,
God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit,
who makes us one:

And they'll know we are Christians
by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians
by our love.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Andante sostenuto from Op. 65, No. 9”
Johann G. Herzog (1822-1909)

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.

Pumpkin Patch Open Today!

The Pumpkin Patch is open today, noon to 6 p.m. Come, choose from the large selection of pumpkins while they last! The patch will be open every day now through Halloween: Weekdays, 2-6 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sundays, noon–6 p.m. If you can help sell pumpkins, please sign up for a 2-hour shift — signup sheets are posted on the church office door. Questions? Visit with John Coefield.

Lost Soles Walk Next Sunday

Our Lost Soles Walk is coming back one more time before winter! Join church friends on Sunday, Oct. 26. We’ll leave the church around 11:30 a.m. and head to Spring Meadow Lake. Our easy walk will be around the lake, and following that, we’ll all go to lunch. Lunch destination will be decided by the group. Wear your walking shoes to church that day.

Bibles for Prisoners

This giving campaign, Crossroads Prison Ministry, will be presented to FPC during October 12, 19, and 26. Every \$10 you give sends a Bible. Crossroads Prison Ministries is a registered 501c3, and your donation is tax-deductible. The campaign is for \$100,000 to cover the cost of sending Bibles to men and women in prison who are desperate for God's word.

Coffee for Vets

October 13-Veterans Day November 11. Please remember to bring cans of coffee or if you so choose, the coffee pods are quite popular also. Don't forget the shelf-stable extras such as sugar, creamer, etc. Thank you so much for your generosity!

God's Bounty Available

Sharing God's Bounty is back! This is the opportunity to share some of the wonderful things God has blessed us with. Please feel free to bring things and also free to take from the Sharing God's Bounty table. Remember, it is not just produce to eat, but any of the many things that God has shared with you. Visit with Jim Meyer for more information.

New FPC Helena Brochures Available

Updated FPC Helena brochures have been printed and are available on the fireplace in the entryway. Take some to share with those people you've been wanting to invite to church!

Women Invited to Sing in Guest Chorus

Women who like to sing are invited to be a part of the Helena Xpress Singers' annual Christmas Guest Chorus, with rehearsals beginning tomorrow, October 20th, from 6 to 8 pm, here at the Church. Rehearsals will continue for the following seven Mondays — culminating in several community performances during the month of December. For more information, ask Barb Leland, 406-431-5854.

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

Patti Borsberry
(Worship Chair)

Jeff Chaffee
(Personnel Chair)

Barb Leland
(Friendship Chair)

John Bryan
(Christian Ed Chair)

John Warren
(Nominating & Synergos Chair)

Jim Meyer
(Administration Chair)

Butch Plowman
(Building & Grounds 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



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

535 North Ewing Street ~ Helena, MT 59601

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Phone: 406-442-4775 **Email:** admin@fpchelena.org **Website:** www.fpchelena.org

Pastor Emily Cowser

Phone: 406-442-4775

Email: pastor@fpchelena.org