

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Karen Witte

Organist: Ann Swisher

“Do not think that saintliness comes from occupation; it depends rather on what one is. The kind of work we do does not make us holy, but we may make it holy.”

-Meister Eckhart, German Catholic priest and theologian

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE “The Feast is Ready: The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: And I looked,
and there was a great crowd that no one could number.
They were from every nation, tribe, people and language.
They were standing before the throne and before the Lamb,
wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.
And they cried out with a loud voice:

**ALL: Victory belongs to our God who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb!**

One: And the angels fell facedown before the throne
and worshipped God, saying:

ALL: Amen!

**Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving
and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and ever. Amen!**

One: Let us worship God together.

*HYMN

“For All the Saints”

GtG #326

For all the saints who from their
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: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen. *(a moment of silent confession)*

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

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 Joshua 3:1-17

Page 334

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING Psalm 34 (NIV)

Read Responsively

I will extol the Lord at all times;

his praise will always be on my lips.

I will glory in the Lord;

let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

Glorify the Lord with me;

let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me;

he delivered me from all my fears.

Those who look to him are radiant;

their faces are never covered with shame.

This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;

he saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him,
and he delivers them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good;

blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

Fear the Lord, you his holy people,

for those who fear him lack nothing.

The lions may grow weak and hungry,

but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

Come, my children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

**Whoever of you loves life
and desires to see many good days,
keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from telling lies.**

Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.

**The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;**
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to blot out their name from the earth.

**The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;
he delivers them from all their troubles.**

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

**The righteous person may have many troubles,
but the Lord delivers him from them all;**

he protects all his bones,
not one of them will be broken.

**Evil will slay the wicked;
the foes of the righteous will be condemned.**

The Lord will rescue his servants;
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12

Page 1501

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Shall We Gather At the River”

Words and music by Robert Lowry, arr. John Coates Jr.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Revelation 7:9-17

Page 1921

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

*HYMN

“Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”

GtG #265

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch
from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane
no more.

To him shall endless prayer
be made,
and praises throng to crown
his head;
his name, like sweet perfume, shall
rise with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love
with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound
where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to loose
their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

ALL: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF ALL SAINTS AND PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One: Watching for a new heaven, waiting for a new earth, we pray to the Lord, saying, O Lord our God, have mercy, and wipe away our tears.

We pray for the church. Transform this broken body into a communion of saints, a company of the faithful, working for good in your world.

O Lord our God, have mercy,

ALL: and wipe away our tears.

One: We pray for the world. Destroy the shroud of death that is spread over the nations. Replace the rule of wealth and war with your realm of justice and peace.

O Lord our God, have mercy,

ALL: and wipe away our tears.

One: We pray for this community. Make your home among us; dwell with us in this place. Let it be a city of heavenly peace, a place of refuge for all.

O Lord our God, have mercy,

ALL: and wipe away our tears.

One: We pray for loved ones. Soothe those who are suffering; comfort those who mourn. Let us be glad and rejoice in the gift of your salvation.

O Lord our God, have mercy,

ALL: and wipe away our tears.

One: As you have sustained your saints through centuries of service, keep us faithful, here and now,

until your will is done on earth as it is in heaven; in Jesus' name we pray.

ALL: Amen.

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Behold a Host Arrayed in White"

John Ferguson (1941-2025)

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**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

GtG #552

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full
of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest.

One: Great is the mystery of faith:

ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN

“By All Your Saints Still Striving”

GtG #325

By all your saints still striving,
for all your saints at rest,
your holy name, O Jesus,
forevermore be blessed!

For those passed on before us,
we sing our praise anew
and, walking in their footsteps,
would live our lives for you.

We praise you for the Baptist,
forerunner of the Word,
our true Elijah, making
a highway for the Lord.

The last and greatest prophet,

he saw the dawning ray
of light that grows in splendor
until the perfect day.

All praise, O Lord, for Andrew,
the first to welcome you,
whose witness to his brother
named you Messiah true.

May we, with hearts kept open
to you throughout the year
proclaim to friend and neighbor
your advent ever near.

For Magdalene we praise you,
steadfast at cross and tomb.
Your “Mary!” in the garden
dispelled her tears and gloom.

Apostle to the apostles,
she ran to spread the word.
Send us to shout the good news
that we have seen the Lord!

We pray for saints we know not,
for saints still yet to be,
for grace to bear true witness
and serve you faithfully,

Till all the ransomed number
who stand before the throne
ascribe all power and glory

and praise to God alone.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Hans F. Micheelsen (1902-1973)



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.

Congregational Dinner Tonight

Today through Tuesday we are hosting the Rev. Jessica Crane Munoz and Dr. Trace Haythorn of Synergos, a residency and renewal program of the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation. The visit will blend 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 tonight from 5:30 to 8:00 for a reflective dinner gathering in Richardson Hall. 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.

POET Dinner November 4

The November POET (Presbyterians Out Eating Together) Society will meet for dinner at 5:30pm on Wednesday, November 4, downstairs at the Brewhouse. All Church members and friends are welcome. Please RSVP to Barb Leland at barb640@hotmail.com, if you are planning to attend.

Winter Worship Planning Team

Our Winter Worship Planning Team will meet on Wednesday, November 11, at noon in the church library. If you have ideas about worship, please join us!

Coffee for Vets

We'll be collecting Coffee for Vets, November 1, 8, and 15, along with shelf-stable condiments. The collected items will be delivered to the VA. Thanks to everyone who will participate in this wonderful event!

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.

You're Invited!

Wednesday, Nov. 4	Choir Rehearsal 2 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 3:30 p.m. POET Dinner 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 5	Women's Bible Study 1 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 6	Friday Bible Study 12/noon Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, Nov. 8	Worship Service 10 a.m. Social Time 11 a.m. Deacons 11:15 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

Dianna Goodman

(Nominating Chair)

Jim Meyer

(Administration Co-Chair)

Patti Borsberry

(Congregational Life Chair)

Butch Plowman

(Buildings & Grounds Chair)

Matthew Richards

(Administration Co-Chair)

Carol Gneckow

(Mission & Outreach Chair)

Max Oliver, Clerk of Session

FPC Deacons

Bonnie Anderson

Ward Stiles, Vice-Moderator

Art Bumgardner, Moderator

Rena Bumgardner

Ria Caussyn

Carole Massman

Wanda Jewell

Alysia Ryan



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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.