

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Kathy Chambers

Organist: Ann Swisher

"The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community."

(-Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German Lutheran pastor, theologian, and anti-Nazi dissident)

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation"

Jan Bender (1909-1994)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Christine Sine

One: God who is one, you call us to be one,

ALL: May we be one with all who are made in your image.

One: God who is three, you call us to be community,

ALL: May we find community with all who are called by your name.

One: God who calls us all by your name,

ALL: May we find our place in your eternal family.

One: Let us worship God together.

*HYMN

"Let Us Build a House"

GtG #301

Let us build a house where love
can dwell

and all can safely live,
a place where saints
and children tell

how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams
and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ
shall end divisions:

All are welcome;
all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house
where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare
to seek
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand
as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith
of Jesus:

All are welcome;
all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love
is found
in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God,
through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast
that frees us:

All are welcome;
all are welcome;

all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands
will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen,
serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.

Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear
and danger:

All are welcome;
all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house
where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured,
taught and claimed as words
within the Word.

Built of tears and cries
and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim
from floor to rafter:

All are welcome;
all are welcome;
all are welcome in this place.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: God of Mercy, we confess that we have not been obedient sons and daughters. We have grown idle in the work of discipleship and weary in doing what is right. We have been selfish in our actions and insistent in claiming our rights. We have not honored the tradition of the apostles or imitated the example of your saints. Forgive us, we pray. Show us the way of repentance, free us from our idle ways, and strengthen us to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. Amen. *(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
One: The Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 65:17-25

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PSALM READING
One: The Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 98

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GOSPEL READING
One: The Gospel of the Lord.
ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

Luke 21:5-19

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CHOIR ANTHEM

“The Gift of Each Day”
John Rutter

NEW TESTAMENT READING
One: The Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

*HYMN

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

GtG #306

Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers.
Our fears, our hopes,
our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes;
our mutual burdens bear.
And often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.

When we are called to part,
it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart,
and hope to meet again.

From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love
and friendship reign
through all eternity.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From the Confession of Belhar

ALL: We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding

force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain; that this unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted; that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice, and pursue community with one another; and that we need one another and upbuild one another.

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Now Thank We All Our God”
Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

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

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER

*HYMN “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant” GtG #727

Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to

let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey;
we're together on the road.
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the nighttime of your fear.
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
When you laugh,
I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen
this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Will you let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Now Thank We All Our God”
Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

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.

Please Pick Up Your Pledge Cards Today

The admin committee reminds members and friends to pick up their pledge cards today if they have not already done so. We will mail out any remaining cards later today. We would greatly appreciate the prompt return of the pledge cards for the budgeting process. Thank you.

Volunteers, Donations Needed for Thanksgiving Dinner

Please check the signup sheets in the fellowship area to see how you can help with our free Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 27, 1-3 p.m. (or until the food runs out.) Also, be sure to invite people! A Thanksgiving dinner of traditional foods will be served, and Ann Swisher and Merle Korizek will provide piano music. Also, the drawing for the church’s raffle prizes will be held at 3 p.m. For details, visit with Barb Leland.

Raffle Conclusion: Turn in Tickets, Money Next Sunday

Please return all remaining raffle tickets and money by next Sunday, Nov. 23, so all tickets can be included in the 3 p.m. raffle drawing on Thanksgiving Day. Thank you to all who participated by selling tickets, purchasing tickets, or making a donation. We've exceeded our goal of \$5000 and may reach \$6000! God has truly blessed us: with a willing and supportive congregation, with community understanding and support, with business partners who contributed prizes and allowed us to sell tickets in their business, and with an updated kitchen for our Thanksgiving Dinner. —*The Kitchen Project Ad-Hoc Committee*

Help Pack Chanukah Boxes Monday, Nov. 24

Yes, it's a Chanukah Box packing party at Temple Emanu-El again! We have packed boxes before for sending to Montana teachers to discuss Chanukah. Treats will be available to volunteers.

This will be held at our neighbor's Temple Emanu-El Conference Room, Monday, Nov. 24, 6-8 pm. Please let Carol Gneckow know if you plan to help: (406) 422-9914.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, Nov. 25

FPC is joining with four other churches for an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service Tuesday, Nov. 25, at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, 3580 N. Benton Ave. The service begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a pie social. Other participating churches are Our Redeemer's Lutheran, St. John's Lutheran, St. Peter's Episcopal, and New Life Lutheran.

Advent Study Begins Thursday, Dec. 4

Commissioned Pastor Dianna Goodman will lead an Advent study on Thursdays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18, at 11 a.m., in the church library. The study will use the book, "Names for the Messiah," by Walter Brueggemann. If you plan to participate, please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship area. Study books will be available next Sunday, Nov. 23.

Snow Shoveler Needed

We are looking to hire someone to shovel our sidewalks (including the entire block.) The person would need to be available to clear the sidewalks after snowfalls, especially before the Sunday morning service. For details, call Butch Plowman at 406-558-9240.

You're Invited!

Tuesday, Nov. 18 Session 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 19 Memorial Committee 1 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal 2 p.m.
Handbell Ringers 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 21 Friday Bible Study 12/noon
Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 23 Worship Service 10 a.m.
Social Time 11 a.m.

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)

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.