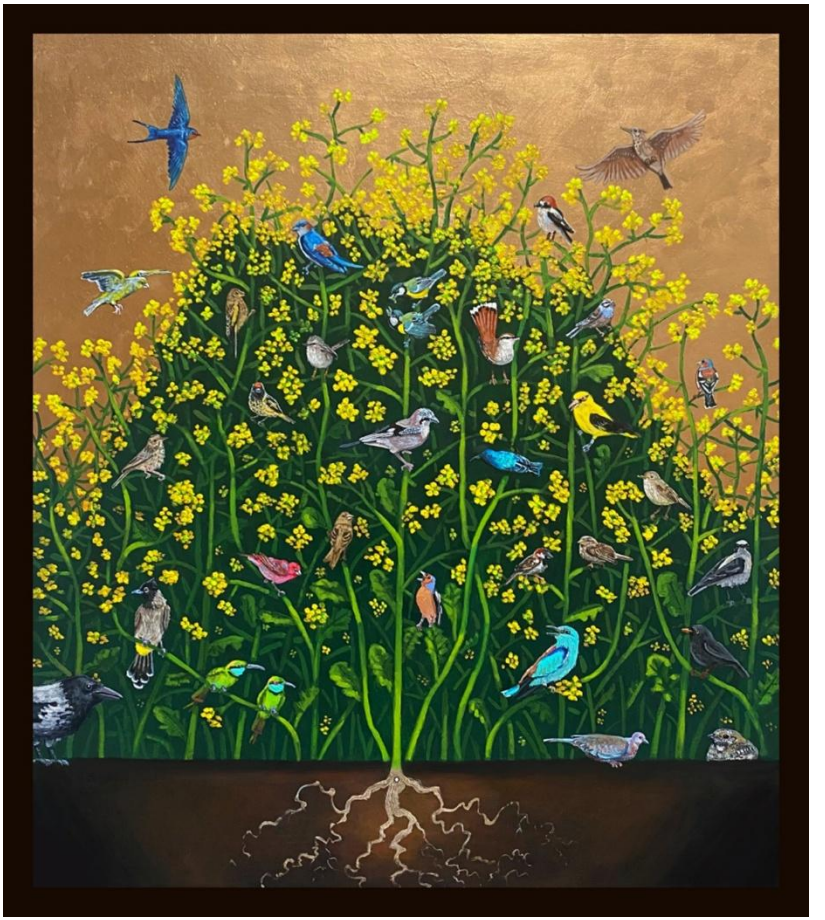
Growing in Faith, Supporting One Another, and Sharing Christ's Love



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601

Sunday, November 22, 2026 ~ 10 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser
Liturgist: Pearle Plowman
Pianist: Barb Leland

"Christians were never meant to be normal. We've always been holy troublemakers, we've always been creators of uncertainty, agents of a dimension that's incompatible with the status quo; we do not accept the world as it is, but we insist on the world becoming the way that God wants it to be. And the Realm of God is different from the patterns of this world."
-Jacques Ellul, French philosopher, sociologist, and theologian (1912-1994)

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE "Polonaise Op. 40 No. 1" Kumari Leland, pianist
Frederic Chopin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Our mission statement: 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.

*CALL TO WORSHIP *Adapted from Bruce Prewer*
One: Christ Jesus, friend of the poor, the meek, and the merciful,
has been enthroned above all authority and power
in this world and in the world that is to come.
ALL: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness;
come into God's presence with singing.
One: God has placed everything under Christ's wounded feet,
appointing the one who wore a crown of thorns
as the supreme head of the church, his body.
ALL: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving;
come into God's courts with praise.
Give thanks and praise God's loving name!

*HYMN "Come, Christians, Join to Sing" GtG #267

Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King:
Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice,
before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice:
Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky:
Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend;
to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again:
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain:
Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore
his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore:
Alleluia! Amen!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Sovereign God, we confess that we are not ready for your holy realm. You guide us toward right paths, but we refuse to follow where you lead. You love and feed and care for us, but we fail to love and serve others. Forgive us, merciful God, so that we may return to your fold and rejoice in your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Lamb upon the throne. Amen. (*a moment of silent confession)*

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: However long we wander, however far we stray, God's steadfast love endures forever. Sisters and brothers, be assured: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

*THE PEACE

OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 34:11-31 Page 1341

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING Psalm 100 Page 937

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:31-46 Page 1542

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

*"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.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING Ephesians 1:15-23 Page 1818
One: The Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

*HYMN "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" GtG #263

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!

Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe
on this terrestrial ball
To him all majesty ascribe,
and crown him lord of all!

Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all!

O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all!

We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from* The Heidelberg Catechism

One: Why is the Son of God called "Christ," meaning "anointed"?

ALL: Because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief prophet and teacher who fully reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our deliverance; our only high priest who has delivered us by the one sacrifice of his body, and who continually pleads our cause with the Father; and our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.

One: But why are you called a Christian?

ALL: Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Melodie (Elegie)"
Jules Massenet

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 "Crown Him with Many Crowns" GtG #268

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly
anthem drowns
all music but its own!

Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:

No angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends
his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a scepter sways
from pole to pole,
that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.

His reign shall know no end;
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time;
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.

All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "March from Aida"
Giuseppe Verdi

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.

Church Decorating Today!

Plan to stay after the service today to help decorate the church sanctuary and entrance for the Advent and Christmas seasons! All are encouraged to participate!

Thanksgiving Dinner Volunteers, Food Providers Needed

We will be hosting a free Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner Thursday, Nov. 26, from 1-3 p.m., in Richardson Hall. Help is needed in providing food, and for set up, clean up, and serving. Please check the signup sheets in the fellowship area to see where you can help. Thank you!

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service Tuesday, Nov. 24

An ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church (1000 Helena Ave.) on Tuesday, November 24, at 6:30 p.m. A pie social will follow. If you are interested in joining the ecumenical choir for a simple song, please plan to attend the rehearsal at 5:15 p.m. at St. John's prior to the service.

Invitation From Your PNC and Strategic Planning Team

You are invited to share in choosing FPC's next pastor! Share your thoughts, hopes, and must haves with the Pastor Nominating Committee and Strategic Planning Team at one of our Focus Group sessions. Signup sheets are available on the fellowship table; simply choose the day and time that is convenient for you to attend and make your input known for us to use in the call. The Focus Group session options are Nov. 29, December 2, 6, 9, and 13, so please sign up.

Doors to Remain Locked During Social Time

Session has decided to keep the main entrance doors locked during the worship service and social time. The doors will be unlocked Sundays between 9 and 10:15 a.m. only.

You're Invited!

Thursday, Nov. 26	Community Thanksgiving Dinner 1-3 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 27	*Church Office Closed*
Sunday, Nov. 29	Worship Service 10 a.m.
First Sunday in Advent	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

Dianna Goodman
(Nominating Chair)

Jim Meyer
(Administration Co-Chair)

Butch Plowman
(Buildings & Grounds Chair)

Carol Gneckow
(Mission & Outreach Chair)

Patti Borsberry
(Congregational Life Chair)

Matthew Richards
(Administration Co-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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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

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