# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser
Liturgist: Bill Cook
Organist: Ann Swisher

"I had arrived at an understanding of faith that had far more to do with trust than with certainty. I trusted God to be God even if I could not say who God was for sure. I trusted God to sustain the world although I could not say for sure how that happened. I trusted God to hold me and those I loved, in life and in death, without giving me one shred of conclusive evidence that it was so."
-Barbara Brown Taylor, *Leaving Church*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE "Rondeau from Sinfonies de Fanfares"
Jean Joseph Mouret (1682-1738)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP
One: We gather together to remember,
to once again tell the wonderful stories of our God—
**ALL: stories we have heard many times before,**
**and passed down from generation to generation;**
One: stories of faithfulness and love,
of mercy and compassion,
of miracles and new life.
**ALL: We tell these stories over and over so that we don't forget.**
**We tell these stories to remember who we are—people of God.**
**We tell these stories so that our children and our children's children**
**can also come to know and love the God we serve.**
One: Let's worship together!

*HYMN "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" GtG #687
Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch
that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard
while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Adapted from Julie Gvillo*

**ALL: Holy and gracious God, you call us to remember your mighty works and to rest in your steadfast love, yet we confess that we often forget. We confess that when trials come, we trust in our own strength rather than in your refining grace. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins, for your name's sake. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us again through the waters. Lift the burdens from our backs. Set our feet on solid ground, that we may live as your free and joyful people.**
(*a moment of silent confession)*

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON
One: Our God responds to us with compassion, steadfast love, and saving power. Hear the good news: In the name of Jesus Christ, we 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 24:1-28 Page 368
One: The Word of the Lord.
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13—5:11 Page 1840
One: The Word of the Lord.
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:1-13 Page 1540
One: The Gospel of the Lord.
**ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHOIR ANTHEM "This Is the Day the Lord Has Made"
(Psalm 118:24) Mark Hayes

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM READING Psalm 78 Page 914
One: The Word of the Lord.
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

*HYMN "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" GtG #39

Great is thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;
there is no shadow
of turning with thee.

Thou changest not;
thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been
thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning,
new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand
hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and

springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their
courses above

Join with all nature
in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness,
mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning,
new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand
hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace
that endureth,
thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide,

Strength for today and
bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning,

new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand
hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *From* A Brief Statement of Faith

**ALL: We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"
Johann G. Walther (1684-1748)

*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 "I Love to Tell the Story" GtG #462

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else could do.

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story;
'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!

I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it, like the rest.

And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story

of Jesus and his love.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Hornpipe from the Water Music"
G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

# 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.

## Winter Worship Planning Team Meets Wednesday

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!

## Sign Up To Help With Thanksgiving Dinner

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!

## Coffee for Vets

We will continue collecting Coffee for Vets, along with shelf-stable condiments, November 8 and 15. 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.

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.

## You're Invited!

| | |
|---|---|
| **Monday, Nov. 9** | Mission & Outreach 1 p.m. |
| **Tuesday, Nov. 10** | Admin Committee 1 p.m. |
| **Wednesday, Nov. 11** | Buildings & Grounds 10 a.m.<br>Winter Worship Planning 12/noon<br>Congregational Life 1 p.m.<br>Choir Rehearsal 2 p.m.<br>Bell Choir Rehearsal 3:30 p.m. |
| **Friday, Nov. 13** | Friday Bible Study 12/noon<br>Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m. |
| **Sunday, Nov. 15** | Worship Service 10 a.m.<br>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


## 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


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