

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Janet Potter

Liturgist: Kathy Chambers

Organist: Ann Swisher

*\*Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE                      “Light Dawns on a Weary World”  
David M. Cherwien (b. 1957)

WELCOME

ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE    John & Candace Coefield

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come all who seek truth—let us go up to the Lord’s house,

**ALL: that we might learn holy ways and follow right paths.**

One: Come—all nations, all peoples—stream through open gates,

**ALL: that we might gather in the hallways of justice, the courts of peace.**

One: Come—children of God—let us walk in the light of the Lord!

**ALL: With hope in our hearts, let us worship God.**

\*GATHERING HYMN      “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”                      GtG #82

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

SPECIAL MUSIC—A Collection of Christmas Songs

Spanglish Kids and Siblings—Maestra Stacy Clement

ADVENT MEDITATION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not hoped for or expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.** *(moment of silent confession)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PEACE OF CHRIST

\*“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

GtG #582

Glory to God, whose goodness  
shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has  
pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has  
set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now  
and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end.  
Amen.

World without end, without end.  
Amen.

World without end, without end.

Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now  
and ever shall be. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“O Come To Set Us Free”

(by Mary McDonald, based on John 20:28, Rev. 19:16 and 12th C Latin tune)

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Isaiah 2:1-5

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Psalms 25:1-10

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SERMON

“Be Ready!”

SERMON SCRIPTURE

Matthew 24:36-44

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\*RESPONSE HYMN

“Christ, Be Our Light”

GtG #314

(vs. 1, 3, 4, 5)

Longing for light,  
we wait in darkness.  
Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own,  
your holy people,  
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church  
gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry.  
Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread,  
broken for others,  
shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church  
gathered today.

Longing for shelter,  
many are homeless.  
Longing for warmth,  
many are cold.  
Make us your building, sheltering  
others, walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church  
gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,  
many the hearts that yearn  
to belong.  
Let us be servants to one another,  
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!  
Shine in your church  
gathered today.

## THE OFFERING

### INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”  
Paul Manz (1919-2009)

\*DOXOLOGY “Glory Be to the Father” 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 OF DEDICATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH—Apostles’ Creed

GtG Page 35

### SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

### THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & UNISON LORD’S PRAYER

\*SENDING HYMN “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” GtG #119

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”

Joyful all ye nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the virgin’s womb.

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Hail the heaven-born  
Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”

\*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“Wake, Awake!”  
Martha Sobaje (b. 1948)

# Announcements

## **Welcome!**

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us today! 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. After the service, join us for refreshments and conversation. To bring treats for Fellowship Time, sign up on the sheet on the coffee table.

## **Thank You, Spanglish Students!**

Students from the Spanglish Preschool, which is housed here at FPC, will sing for us today. Thank you, students, siblings, and Maestro Stacy Clement for sharing your music with us!

## **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. on Sunday mornings. The doors are unlocked again between 11 a.m. and noon.

## **Christmas Joy Special Offering**

The Christmas Joy Special Offering period begins today! Fifty percent of the offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need, and the remaining fifty percent develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please give generously.

## **Readers’ Theater: ‘A Christmas Truce’ Next Sunday**

Join us next Sunday at 10 a.m. for a Readers’ Theater presenting “A Christmas Truce,” a story from WWI about an unofficial, temporary truce that took place along some parts of the Western Front during Christmas. Other special services this month:

- **Celebrating Christmas with Music Sunday Dec. 15**
- **Blue Christmas Service Dec. 18 at Noon**
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.**

## **At This Time of Year . . .**

At this time of year, remember FPC Helena happily accepts tax-free Required Minimum Distributions from your IRA or other retirement accounts to satisfy your annual pledge. Consult your tax advisor.

## You're Invited!

<b>Monday, Dec. 2</b>	Sarah Circle 2 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 4</b>	Choir 2 p.m. Bell Choir 3:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday, Dec. 5</b>	Rebekah Circle 10 a.m.
<b>Friday, Dec. 6</b>	Bible Study 12/Noon Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, Dec. 8</b> <i>Readers' Theater</i>	Worship 10 a.m. <i>"A Christmas Truce"</i> Social Time 11 a.m. Deacons 11:15 a.m.

## Staff

Ministers—Every Member	Organist—Ann Swisher
Pastor—Rev. Janet Potter	Treasurer—Leo Potter
Director of Music & Media—Les Cramer	Office Coordinator—Julie Young

## FPC Elders

<b>Sheryl Eriksen</b> (Fellowship chair)	<b>Patti Borsberry</b> (Worship co-chair)	<b>Linda Bench</b> (Nominating chair)
<b>Jim Meyer</b> (Administration chair)	<b>Jeff Chaffee</b> (Personnel chair)	<b>John Bryan</b>
<b>Butch Plowman</b> (Building & Grounds chair)	<b>Barb Leland</b> (Worship co-chair)	<b>Karen Witte</b> (Mission chair)

**John Gneckow**, Clerk of Session

## FPC Deacons

Vicky Bryan	BJ Burns (Moderator)	Bonnie Anderson
Merle Korizek	Kathy Chambers	Ward Stiles (Vice-mod.)
Carole Massman	Jill Cook	
Darlene McNay		



### Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Phone: 406-442-4775 Email: [admin@fnchelena.org](mailto:admin@fnchelena.org) Website: [www.fnchelena.org](http://www.fnchelena.org)