

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Butch Plowman

Organist: Ann Swisher

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."*

-Martin Luther King, Jr., American civil rights activist and Baptist minister

*\*Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

"Fugue in G Major"

Johann L. Krebs (1713-1780)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Adapted from Bruce Prewer*

One: Today we are celebrating the holy light that illuminated Jesus.

We celebrate his transfiguration on the mountain.

**ALL: It is the same God who at the beginning said:**

**"Let there be light,"**

**who has shone in our hearts with an understanding  
of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.**

One: The mightiest One of all, God the Eternal,  
speaks and summons the whole earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

**ALL: From God's holy mountain, God's light,  
the perfection of beauty, shines out.**

One: Let us glorify the Lord together.

\*HYMN

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

GtG #662

Christ, whose glory fills the skies;  
Christ, the true, the only light;  
Sun of Righteousness, arise;  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return  
till thy mercy's beams I see;  
till they inward light impart,  
cheer my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine;  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiancy divine;  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: Glorious God, you are all wisdom and a lamp to our feet, yet we fail to listen to you and neglect to follow your guidance. Forgive us, heal us, and lead us on, that we may walk in your ways and be happy in your refuge; in Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.** *(a moment of silent confession)*

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Our righteousness is found in Christ alone, a gift of God by faith. Beloved people of God, believe the good news: through the grace 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                      Exodus 24:12-18                      Page 125  
One: The Word of the Lord.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM READING                                      Psalm 2                                      Page 844  
One: The Word of the Lord.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING                                      Matthew 17:1-13                                      Page 1524  
One: The Gospel of the Lord.  
**ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!**

CHOIR ANTHEM                      “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”  
Words and music by Ken Medema, choral arr. Joel Raney

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING                      2 Peter 1:16-21                                      Page 1894  
One: The Word of the Lord.  
**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

\*HYMN                      “Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”                      GtG #314

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 peace,  
our world is troubled.  
Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power  
to save us.  
Make us your living voice.

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.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Adapted from The Westminster Larger Catechism*

**ALL: The communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible Church enjoy immediately after death, is in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness, and received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory; waiting for the full redemption of their bodies, which even in death continue united to Christ, and rest in their graves as in their beds, till at the last day they be again united to their souls.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Fantasia in F Major"

Georg P. Telemann (1681-1767)

*Offering plates are located in the back of the sanctuary. You may also give online at [fpchelena.org/giving](http://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

“Lord, the Light of Your Love is Shining”

GtG #192

Lord, the light of your love  
is shining,  
in the midst  
of the darkness, shining;

Jesus, Light of the World,  
shine upon us;  
set us free by the truth  
you now bring us.  
Shine on me; shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine;  
fill this land with the Father's glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze;  
set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow;  
flood the nations with grace  
and mercy.  
Send forth your word, Lord,  
and let there be light.

Lord, I come to your  
awesome presence,

from the shadows into  
your radiance;  
by the blood I may enter  
your brightness.

Search me; try me;  
consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me; shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine;  
fill this land with the Father's glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze;  
set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow;  
flood the nations with grace  
and mercy.  
Send forth your word, Lord,  
and let there be light.

As we gaze on your  
kingly brightness,  
so our faces display  
your likeness;

Ever changing from glory to glory,  
mirrored here may our lives tell  
your story.  
Shine on me; shine on me.

Shine, Jesus, shine;  
fill this land with the Father's glory.  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze;  
set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow;  
flood the nations with grace  
and mercy.  
Send forth your word, Lord,  
and let there be light.

\*CHARGE

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”  
Johann G. Walther (1684-1748)

## **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.

### **Ash Wednesday Service Feb. 18 at Noon**

You are invited to the Ash Wednesday Service February 18 at noon. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. This traditional service will include the imposition of ashes. A light meal of soup, rolls, and cookies will be provided after the service.

### **Lay Liturgist Training Next Sunday, Feb. 22**

There will be a lay liturgist training on February 22 in the sanctuary after worship. This will be a chance to practice our liturgy-reading skills and to provide common ground about the ways that we lead worship. All lay liturgists are encouraged to attend, as well as anyone else who is interested.



## **Presbyterian Giving Catalog - Small Gifts. Big Impact.**

As Presbyterians, it is our gratitude for God's grace that moves us to join in God's mission in the world, with ministries of love and justice, reconciliation and peace. The gifts of a Bag of Moringa Tree Seeds (\$40) or a Sapling Set (\$30) during the month of February will help feed the hungry and provide needed nutrition. By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God's gracious and abundant work in the world. Thank you! Questions? Call Carol Gneckow, (406) 422-9914.

### **You're Invited!**

<b>Tuesday, Feb. 17</b>	Session 1 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, Feb. 18</b>	Ash Wednesday Service & Lunch 12/noon Choir 2 p.m.
<b>Friday, Feb. 20</b>	Bible Study 12/Noon Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, Feb. 22</b>	Worship Service 10 a.m. Social Time 11 a.m. Lay Liturgist Training 11:15 a.m.

### **Staff**

Ministers—Every Member	Organist—Ann Swisher
Pastor—Rev. Emily Cowser	Treasurer—Leo Potter
Director of Music & Media—Les Cramer	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



## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)**

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**Pastor Emily Cowser**

**Phone:** 406-442-4775   **Email:** [pastor@fpchelena.org](mailto:pastor@fpchelena.org)

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