

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Art Bumgardner

Organist: Ann Swisher

“Hope, on one hand, is an absurdity too embarrassing to speak about, for it flies in the face of all those claims we have been told are facts. Hope is the refusal to accept the reading of reality which is the majority opinion; and one does that only at great political and existential risk. On the other hand, hope is subversive, for it limits the grandiose pretension of the present, daring to announce that the present to which we have all made commitments is now called into question.”

-Walter Brueggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“In Joyful Praise”

Laurence Lyon (1934-2006)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: With what shall we come before the Lord?

What shall we bring into the presence of our God,
as an expression of our worship and praise?

**ALL: Shall we bring God all that we own —
our finest possessions, our life-savings,
our investments and property?**

Would God be satisfied if we brought everything we possess?

One: No, that’s not what God is looking for.

God has told you what is good,
and what God expects of you:

ALL: To do justice.

To love mercy.

To walk humbly before him.

One: Let us worship God together, not just with our words and offerings, but
through the way that we live.

***HYMN**

“When the Poor Ones”

GtG #762

When the poor ones who have

nothing share with strangers,
when the thirsty water give
unto us all,
when the crippled in their
weakness strengthen others,

Then we know that God still goes
that road with us,
then we know that God still goes
that road with us.

When at last all those who suffer
find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope
seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times
seems all around us,

Then we know that God still goes
that road with us,
then we know that God still goes
that road with us.

When our joy fills up our cup to
overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words
other than true,
when we know that love for simple
things is better,

Then we know that God still goes
that road with us,
then we know that God still goes
that road with us.

When our homes are filled with
goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace
instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet
is called a neighbor,

Then we know that God still goes
that road with us,
then we know that God still goes
that road with us.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ALL: Almighty God, we have asked for your righteous judgment against others, but we have not acknowledged the sin in our own lives. We have worshiped you with our lips but have dishonored you with our actions. We have prayed for you to end the suffering in our world, yet we have not practiced compassion and generosity toward others. Our religion has become the source of quarreling rather than a testimony to your grace. Forgive our self-righteousness and give us integrity of heart, that we may shine forth the light of your salvation, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(a moment of silent confession)

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

One: In mercy God forgives us our sin and grants us genuine repentance through the grace and power of the Holy Spirit. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

One: Thanks be to God.

***THE PEACE**

One: Beloved, having received the peace of God's forgiveness, let us live in peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

***"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.

PSALM READING	Psalm 112	Page 952
One: The Word of the Lord.		
ALL: Thanks be to God.		

NEW TESTAMENT READING	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	Page 1773
One: The Word of the Lord.		
ALL: Thanks be to God.		

GOSPEL READING	Matthew 5:13-20	Page 1501
One: The Gospel of the Lord.		
ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!		

CHOIR ANTHEM	"We Call You to Praise"
	by John G. Elliott, arr. Larry Mayfield

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING	Isaiah 58:1-12	Page 1152
One: The Word of the Lord.		
ALL: Thanks be to God.		

SERMON

*HYMN	"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"	GtG #314
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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 Confession of 1967

ALL: Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, a father's house, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day culminate in the image of the kingdom. The kingdom represents the triumph of God over all that resists God's will and disrupts God's creation. Already God's reign is present as a ferment in the world, stirring hope in us and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption. With an urgency born of this hope, the church applies itself to present tasks and strives for a better world. It does not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God on earth, nor does it despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, the church looks beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Let All Things Now Living”
Charles Callahan (1951-2023)

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 “Soon and Very Soon” GtG #384

Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we’re going to see the King!

No more crying there:
we are going to see the King.
No more crying there:
we are going to see the King.

No more crying there:
we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

No more dying there:
we are going to see the King.
No more dying there:
we are going to see the King.

No more dying there:
we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.

Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Ricercare on St. Anne"
Gordon Young (1919-1998)

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!

Annual Meeting Today

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place today after the worship service. Copies of the Annual Report are available in the fellowship area.

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.

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.

Lay Liturgist Training 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.

You're Invited!

Monday, Feb. 9	Christian Ed Committee 11 a.m. Mission & Outreach 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 10	Worship Committee 10 a.m. Administration Committee 1 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 11	Buildings & Grounds 10 a.m. Choir 2 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 13	Bible Study 12/Noon

Sunday, Feb. 15

Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.

Worship Service 10 a.m.

Social Time 11 a.m.

Deacons 11:15 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.