



the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live.”

I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched,  
my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“I am this dark world’s light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright.”

I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I’ll walk  
till traveling days are done.

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into the light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen. *(a moment of silent confession)***

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: The psalmist assures us that God’s goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God’s forgiven people, receive this goodness

and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.

**ALL: We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.**

\*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

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Page 443

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the

spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM READING

Psalm 23

Page 862

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-41

Page 1664

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from

God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Joyce Merman, George Allen; arr. Roy Ringwald

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING      Ephesians 5:3-20

Page 1822

But sexual immorality and impurity of any kind or greed must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. Be sure of this, that no sexually immoral or impure person or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater) has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be associated with them, for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

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

*From the Confession of Belhar*

**ALL: We believe that Christ's work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that this unity of the people of God must be manifested and be active in a variety of ways; in that we love one another; that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another;**

**that we are obligated to give ourselves willingly and joyfully to be of benefit and blessing to one another; together know and bear one another's burdens, thereby fulfilling the law of Christ; that we need one another and upbuild one another, admonishing and comforting one another; that we suffer with one another for the sake of righteousness; pray together; together serve God in this world; and together fight against all which may threaten or hinder this unity.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Jesus Suffered Anguish and Death"

Johann G. Walther (1684-1748)

*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

"We Are Marching in the Light of God"

GtG #853

We are marching in the light  
of God;  
we are marching in the light  
of God.

We are marching in the light  
of God;

we are marching in the light of,  
the light of God.

We are dancing in the light  
of God;  
we are dancing in the light  
of God.

We are dancing in the light  
of God;  
we are dancing in the light of,  
the light of God.

We are praying in the light  
of God;  
we are praying in the light  
of God.

We are praying in the light  
of God;  
we are praying in the light of,  
the light of God.

We are singing in the light  
of God;  
we are singing in the light  
of God.

We are singing in the light  
of God;  
we are singing in the light of,  
the light of God.

\*CHARGE

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“O Innocent Lamb of God”  
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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## **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.

### **Let’s Share Our Bulletins!**

Sunday's printed church bulletin can be taken home with you to keep, or to share with your friends and neighbors. But should you decide to recycle your bulletin, please drop it off on the table immediately outside the sanctuary. There are groups who come into the church for meetings during the week, and we'd like to have our church bulletins available. Thanks to all!  
- Mission & Outreach Committee

### **Lenten Bible Study Books Available**

Copies of “Journey to the Resurrection,” a Lent devotional book, are available to the congregation for individual study. You can pick up your copy in the fellowship area.

### **Holy Spirit Bible Study Meets on Thursdays**

A new Bible study is meeting Thursdays at noon at the church. “*Who is the Holy Spirit*” is a one hour, 12-week series with a video and workbook. If you would like to participate, please contact study leader John Bryan.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing**

One Great Hour of Sharing serves individuals and communities in need, providing people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing, an offering that responds directly to Micah 6:8: "What does the Lord require of you? ... to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." -Mission & Outreach Committee

## You're Invited!

<b>Tuesday, March 17</b>	Session 1 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, March 18</b>	Choir 2 p.m.
<b>Thursday, March 19</b>	"Holy Spirit" Bible Study 12/Noon
<b>Friday, March 20</b>	Bible Study 12/Noon Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, March 22</b>	Worship Service 10 a.m. Social Time 11 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

Bonnie Anderson

Vicky Bryan

Kathy Chambers

Ward Stiles, Vice-Moderator

Art Bumgardner, Moderator

Jill Cook

Rena Bumgardner

Ria Caussyn

Carole Massman



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