

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Ria Caussyn

Pianist: Merle Korizek

“I first thought that praying entailed speaking.

I then learnt that praying is hearing,

not merely being silent.

This is how it is.

To pray does not mean to listen to oneself speaking.

Prayer involves becoming silent,

and being silent,

and waiting until God is heard.”

- Søren Kierkegaard, Danish theologian and philosopher (1813-1855)

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Come, Holy Spirit, Dove Divine”

H. Percy Smith

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Nancy Gowler

One: Lift up your voice and call out to God.

ALL: We cry out, believing that God hears us.

One: Come together and wait for God.

ALL: We come together, trusting that God is still speaking.

One: Surely God’s presence is here with us now.

ALL: We wait in hope, for God’s steadfast love lifts our hearts.

One: Come, worship the Lord.

ALL: We celebrate the power of God that restores us.

*HYMN

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

GtG #735

I need thee every hour,
most gracious Lord;
no tender voice like thine
can peace afford.

I need thee, O I need thee,
every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior--
I come to thee!

I need thee every hour;
stay thou near by;
temptations lose their power
when thou art nigh.

I need thee, O I need thee,
every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior--
I come to thee!

I need thee every hour;
teach me thy will,
and thy rich promises
in me fulfill.

I need thee, O I need thee,
every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior--
I come to thee!

I need thee every hour,
Most Holy One;
O make me thine indeed,
thou blessed Son.

I need thee, O I need thee,
every hour I need thee!
O bless me now, my Savior--
I come to thee!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: O Lord, if you held our sin against us, who could live, who could stand? We seem to have more faith in death than hope in your promise of life. We seek peace through war and find security in weapons. We abandon the hungry, sick, and dying, and pursue wealth by making others poor. And even so, you love us; still there is forgiveness with you! Therefore, we worship you; for you alone, O Lord, can save us from death and redeem us from our sin. *(a moment of silent confession)*

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life, and the grace of God will be your righteousness. And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel: In 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Page 1345

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to

life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ Therefore prophecy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 8:1-17

Page 1756

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 11:1-44

Page 1668

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

“But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha

and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

Jesus wept.

Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that

There is a place of quiet rest,
near to the heart of God,
a place where sin cannot molest,
near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee,
near to the heart of God.

There is a place of comfort sweet,
near to the heart of God,
a place where we our Savior meet,
near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee,
near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release,
near to the heart of God,
a place where all is joy and peace,
near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us, who wait before thee,
near to the heart of God.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Westminster Larger Catechism

One: What is prayer?

ALL: Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God, in the name of Christ, by the help of God's Spirit, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of God's mercies.

One: How are we to pray?

ALL: We are to pray with an awful apprehension of the majesty of God, and deep sense of our own unworthiness, necessities, and sins; with penitent, thankful, and enlarged hearts; with understanding, faith, sincerity, fervency, love, and perseverance, waiting upon God with humble submission to God's will.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "In the Image of God"
John W. Peterson

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 "Jesus, Savior, Lord, Now to You I Come" GtG #789

Jesus, Savior, Lord,
now to you I come.
Saranam, saranam, saranam.
You're my rock, my refuge,
my heavenly home.
Saranam, saranam, saranam.

From the earth wherever I may be,

out of desperation
and through agony,
I cry in helplessness: O answer me.
Saranam, saranam, saranam.

Jesus, Savior, Lord,
now to you I come.
Saranam, saranam, saranam.
You're my rock, my refuge,
my heavenly home.
Saranam, saranam, saranam.

In your heart give me a hiding
place, and beneath your wings
let me find sheltering grace;
O let me see the sunshine
of your face.
Saranam, saranam, saranam.

Jesus, Savior, Lord,
now to you I come.
Saranam, saranam, saranam.
You're my rock, my refuge,
my heavenly home.
Saranam, saranam, saranam.

Then with joy to you my vows I'll
pay, and give thanks for all
your mercy every day.
I'll humbly follow
in your perfect way.
Saranam, saranam, saranam.

Jesus, Savior, Lord,
now to you I come.

Saranam, saranam, saranam.
You're my rock, my refuge,
my heavenly home.
Saranam, saranam, saranam.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Etude in Style”
John Thompson

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.

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.

Fifth-Sunday Potluck next Sunday!

The Fifth-Sunday Potluck is next Sunday after the worship service! Bring a favorite dish to share.

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. Mission & Outreach Committee, Carol Gneckow, (406) 422-9914

Two Scholarships Available

Two scholarships are available for FPCH members and their relatives attending or planning to attend post-secondary school. Larry Linton and Seeley Family Memorial Scholarship forms are in the fellowship area.

You're Invited!

Wednesday, March 25	Choir 2 p.m.
Thursday, March 26	"Holy Spirit" Bible Study 12/Noon
Friday, March 20	Bible Study 12/Noon Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 29 <i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i>	Worship Service 10 a.m. Fifth Sunday Potluck 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
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

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