

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Vicky Bryan

Organist: Ann Swisher

“As the week of Passover begins, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and people cheer him, shouting ‘Hosanna – blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ Less well-known is the historical fact that a Roman imperial procession was also entering Jerusalem for Passover from the other side of the city...Thus for Passover that year, two very different processions entered Jerusalem. They proclaimed two very different and contrasting visions of how this world can and should be: the kingdom of God versus the kingdoms, the powers, of this world. The former is about justice and the end of violence. The latter are about domination and exploitation.”

-Marcus Borg, American New Testament scholar and theologian (1942-2015)

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Processional”

William Mathias (1934-1992)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Drew Ludwig

One: Jesus was beloved by the poor and the outcast

ALL: but he was a threat to people with power.

One: Jesus stood against the Temple,

ALL: so he was a threat to the Sadducees.

One: Jesus healed on the Sabbath and ate with sinners,

ALL: so he was a threat to the Pharisees.

One: Jesus took the titles of “Lord,” “Son of God,” and “King.”

ALL: so he was a threat to the government.

One: Jesus came without violence

ALL: yet he disturbed the peace.

One: Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom of God

ALL: and the kingdoms of this world were frightened.

One: As we worship today, may we love the Kingdom of God more than the kingdoms of this world.

*HYMN

“All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

GtG #196

All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King,

to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

Thou art the King of Israel,
thou David's royal Son,
who in the Lord's name comest,
the King and blessed One.

All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

The people of the Hebrews
with palms before thee went;
our praise and prayers
and anthems
before thee we present.

All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

To thee, before thy passion,
they sang their hymns of praise;
to thee, now high exalted,
our melody we raise.

All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

Thou didst accept their praises;

accept the prayers we bring,
who in all good delightest,
thou good and gracious King!

All glory, laud, and honor
to thee, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: From our failures to love others as you have loved us...

ALL: Hosanna. Save us.

One: From wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods...

ALL: Hosanna. Save us.

One: From plundering the earth and abusing the planet...

ALL: Hosanna. Save us.

One: From fearing those who are strange to us and ignoring those in need...

ALL: Hosanna. Save us.

One: From losing heart and abandoning hope...

ALL: Hosanna. Save us.

One: From all the ways we turn from you...

ALL: Hosanna. Save us.

One: We cry from the depth of our hearts and the very pit of our souls...

ALL: Hosanna. Save us. Save us now.

(a moment of silent confession)

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Your God has come to you, humble, in the form of a slave, to free you from the weight of sin and death. Jesus' obedient suffering has released you. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the one who is exalted beyond what we can comprehend: Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

Zechariah 9:9-17

Page 1480

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,

righteous and victorious,

lowly and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I will take away the chariots from Ephraim

and the warhorses from Jerusalem,

and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

Return to your fortress, you prisoners of hope;

even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you.

I will bend Judah as I bend my bow

and fill it with Ephraim.

I will rouse your sons, Zion,

against your sons, Greece,

and make you like a warrior's sword.

Then the LORD will appear over them;

his arrow will flash like lightning.

The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet;

he will march in the storms of the south,

and the LORD Almighty will shield them.

They will destroy

and overcome with slingstones.

They will drink and roar as with wine;
they will be full like a bowl
used for sprinkling the corners of the altar.
The LORD their God will save his people on that day
as a shepherd saves his flock.
They will sparkle in his land
like jewels in a crown.
How attractive and beautiful they will be!
Grain will make the young men thrive,
and new wine the young women.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING

Psalm 118

Page 956

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

Let Israel say:

“His love endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say:

“His love endures forever.”

Let those who fear the Lord say:

“His love endures forever.”

When hard pressed, I cried to the Lord;
he brought me into a spacious place.

The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid.

What can mere mortals do to me?

The Lord is with me; he is my helper.

I look in triumph on my enemies.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in humans.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord
than to trust in princes.

All the nations surrounded me,
but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.

They surrounded me on every side,
but in the name of the Lord I cut them down.

They swarmed around me like bees,

but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;
in the name of the Lord I cut them down.
I was pushed back and about to fall,
but the Lord helped me.
The Lord is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.

Shouts of joy and victory
resound in the tents of the righteous:
“The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!
The Lord’s right hand is lifted high;
the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”
I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the Lord has done.
The Lord has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.
Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord
through which the righteous may enter.
I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.
The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
The Lord has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.
Lord, save us!
Lord, grant us success!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
From the house of the Lord we bless you.
The Lord is God,
and he has made his light shine on us.
With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession
up to the horns of the altar.
You are my God, and I will praise you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you.
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Philippians 2:1-11 Page 1827

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM “Ain’t No Rock Gonna Shout for Me”

By Lloyd Larson, Paul J. Williams

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:1-11

Page 1531

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

One: The Gospel of the Lord.
ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON

*HYMN "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" GtG #197

Hosanna, loud hosanna,
the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple
the joyful anthem rang.

To Jesus, who had blessed them,
close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises,
the simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed
'mid an exultant crowd,
the victor palm branch waving,
and chanting clear and loud;

The Lord of earth and heaven
rode on in lowly state,
nor scorned that little children
should on his bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!”
That ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer;
the Lord of heaven, our King.

O may we ever praise him
with heart and life and voice,
and in his blissful presence
eternally rejoice.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from the Westminster Larger Catechism*

One: How does Christ execute the office of a king?

ALL: Christ executes the office of a king, in calling out of the world a people to himself; and giving them officers, laws, and censures, by which he visibly governs them; in bestowing saving grace upon his elect, rewarding their obedience, and correcting them for their sins, preserving and supporting them under all their temptations and sufferings; restraining and overcoming all their enemies, and powerfully ordering all things for his own glory, and their good.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Christ, the Life of All the Living”
Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

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 "Ride On! Ride On in Majesty!" GtG #198

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
Hark! all the tribes hosanna cry;
thy humble beast pursues its road
with palms and scattered
garments strowed.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
o'er captive death
and conquered sin.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
The hosts of angels in the sky
look down with sad
and wondering eyes
to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on! ride on in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die;
bow thy meek head to mortal pain;

then take, O God, thy power,
and reign.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Jesus, I Will Ponder Now on Your Holy Passion”
Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Holy Week Service Schedule

*Join us this week as we continue our Lenten journey
toward the cross and the resurrection.*

Maundy Thursday Service: 7 p.m.

Music, scripture, and meditation in the Taizé tradition

Good Friday Service: 12/noon

Service of scriptures and hymns

Easter Sunday Service: 10 a.m.

Easter Service with Holy Communion

Social Time to follow

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.

POET Society Dinner April 1

Presbyterians Out Eating Together (POET) Society will gather at the Montana Hardware Café in Montana City for dinner Wednesday, April 1, at 5:30 p.m. Bring a baby picture of yourself, if you have one. Email Barb at barb640@hotmail.com if you plan to come.

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

You're Invited!

Wednesday, April 1	Choir 2 p.m. POET Society Dinner 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 2	Sarah & Rebekah Study 10 a.m. <i>Holy Spirit</i> Bible Study 12/Noon Maundy Thursday Service 7 p.m.
Friday, April 3	Good Friday Service, 12/noon Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 5 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Worship Service with Communion 10 a.m. Social Time

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.