



to bless the Lord, my guide.

Forever in my thought, the Lord  
before my face shall stand;  
secure, unmoved I shall remain,  
with God at my right hand.

My inmost being thrills with joy  
and gladness fills my breast;  
because on God my trust is stayed,  
my flesh in hope shall rest.

I know that I shall not be left  
forgotten in the grave,  
and from corruption, you, O Lord,  
your holy one will save.

The path of life you show to me;  
of joy a boundless store  
is ever found at your right hand,  
and pleasures evermore.

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: God, you have made known to us the ways of life. Yet, too often, we put other things above you and turn away from the ways of life and toward the ways of death. Forgive us and guide us back into your presence, that we may know the fullness of joy. Amen.** *(a moment of silent confession)*

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: My friends, God is our refuge and will not abandon us. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we are reconciled to God.

**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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:22-32

Page 1693

"Fellow Israelites, listen to this! Jesus of Nazareth was a man who had God's approval. God did miracles, wonders and signs among you through Jesus. You yourselves know this. Long ago God planned that Jesus would be handed over to you. With the help of evil people, you put Jesus to death. You nailed him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead. He set him free from the suffering of death. It wasn't possible for death to keep its hold on Jesus. David spoke about him. He said,

" 'I know that the Lord is always with me.

Because he is at my right hand,

I will always be secure.

So my heart is glad and joy is on my tongue.

My whole body will be full of hope.

You will not leave me in the place of the dead.

You will not let your holy one rot away.

You always show me the path that leads to life.

You will fill me with joy when I am with you.'

"Fellow Israelites, you can be sure that King David died. He was buried. His tomb is still here today. But David was a prophet. He knew that God had made a promise to him. God had promised that he would make someone in David's family line king after him. David saw what was coming. So he spoke about the Messiah rising from the dead. He said that the Messiah would not be left in the place of the dead. His body wouldn't rot in the ground. God has raised this same Jesus back to life. We are all witnesses of this.

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Peter 1:3-9

Page 1886

Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. In his great mercy he has given us a new birth and a living hope. This hope is living because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. He has given us new birth so that we might share in what belongs to him. This is a gift that can never be destroyed. It can never spoil or even fade away. It is kept in heaven for you. Through faith you are kept safe by God's power. Your salvation is going to be completed. It is ready to be shown to you in the last days. Because you know all this, you have great joy. You have joy even though you may have had to suffer for a little

while. You may have had to suffer sadness in all kinds of trouble. Your troubles have come in order to prove that your faith is real. Your faith is worth more than gold. That's because gold can pass away even when fire has made it pure. Your faith is meant to bring praise, honor and glory to God. This will happen when Jesus Christ returns. Even though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not see him now, you believe in him. You are filled with a glorious joy that can't be put into words. You are receiving the salvation of your souls. This salvation is the final result of your faith.

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-31

Page 1686

On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" Then he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were very happy when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "May peace be with you! The Father has sent me. So now I am sending you." He then breathed on them. He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Thomas was one of the 12 disciples. He was also called Didymus. He was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "First I must see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe."

A week later, Jesus' disciples were in the house again. Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "May peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs in front of his disciples. They are not written down in this book. But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. If you believe this, you will have life because you belong to him.

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Lift Up Your Voices"  
George F. Handel; arr. Patrick Liebergen

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### PSALM READING

### Psalm 16

Page 853

My God, keep me safe.

I go to you for safety.

I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord.

Without you, I don't have anything that is good."

I say about God's people who live in our land, "They are the noble ones.

I take great delight in them."

Those who run after other gods

will suffer more and more.

I will not pour out offerings of blood to those gods.

My lips will not speak their names.

LORD, you alone are everything I need.

You make my life secure.

I am very pleased with what you have given me.

I am very happy with what I've received from you.

I will praise the LORD. He gives me good advice.

Even at night my heart teaches me.

I keep my eyes always on the LORD.

He is at my right hand.

So I will always be secure.

So my heart is glad. Joy is on my tongue.

My body also will be secure.

You will not leave me in the place of the dead.

You will not let your faithful one rot away.

You always show me the path of life.

You will fill me with joy when I am with you.

You will make me happy forever at your right hand.

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

\*HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

GtG #450

Be thou my vision,  
O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me,  
save that thou art;

Thou my best thought,  
by day or by night,

waking or sleeping,  
thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom,  
and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee  
and thou with me, Lord;

Thou my soul's shelter,  
and thou my high tower;  
raise thou me heavenward,  
O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not,  
nor vain, empty praise;  
thou, mine inheritance,  
now and always;

Thou and thou only,  
first in my heart,  
High King of Heaven,  
my treasure thou art.

High King of Heaven,  
my victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys,  
O bright heaven's Sun!

Heart of my own heart,  
whatever befall,  
still be my vision,  
O Ruler of all.

**ALL: In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.**

**God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.**

**Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the church. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to**

**serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD: Girls Thrive

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Fantasia in D 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

"Guide My Feet"

GtG #741

Guide my feet while I run this race;  
(yes, my Lord!)  
guide my feet while I run this race;  
(yes, my Lord!)

Guide my feet while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race  
in vain! (race in vain!)

Hold my hand while I run this race;  
    (yes, my Lord!)  
hold my hand while I run this race;  
    (yes, my Lord!)

Hold my hand while I run this race,  
    for I don't want to run this race  
    in vain! (race in vain!)

Stand by me while I run this race;  
    (yes, my Lord!)  
stand by me while I run this race;  
    (yes, my Lord!)

Stand by me while I run this race,  
    for I don't want to run this race  
    in vain! (race in vain!)

I'm your child while I run this race;  
    (yes, my Lord!)  
I'm your child while I run this race;  
    (yes, my Lord!)

I'm your child while I run this race,  
    for I don't want to run this race  
    in vain! (race in vain!)

Search my heart while I run  
    this race; (yes, my Lord!)  
search my heart while I run  
    this race; (yes, my Lord!)

Search my heart while I run  
    this race,

for I don't want to run this race  
in vain! (race in vain!)

Guide my feet while I run this race;  
(yes, my Lord!)  
guide my feet while I run this race;  
(yes, my Lord!)

Guide my feet while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race  
in vain! (race in vain!)

\*CHARGE

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Fantasia in A Major”  
Georg P. Telemann

## 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!

### **One Great Hour of Sharing Wraps Up Today**

Our One Great Hour of Sharing giving campaign concludes today. Your donations serve individuals and communities in need, providing people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Donation envelopes are available in the fellowship room. Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing. —Mission & Outreach Committee, Carol Gneckow, (406) 422-9914

## **Home Communion Training April 19**

Pastor Emily will be facilitating a home communion training on April 19th after worship. This training is intended for anyone who is ordained or about to be ordained as an elder or deacon as well as anyone who is interested in learning more about communion. We will explore how communion is understood theologically and the practicalities of extending communion to those who are unable to join us in person.

## **Fall Spiritual Formation Retreat**

Pastor Emily will be facilitating a fall retreat focused on the theme of prayer. Together, we will explore what prayer means, our struggles with prayer, and a variety of ways to pray. The retreat is tentatively planned for September 10th-12th at the beautiful Glacier Camp on Flathead Lake. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Emily know, so that she can begin to gauge the size of our group.

## **Let's Share Our Bulletins!**

You are welcome to take a bulletin home, but should you decide to leave it, 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 for them. — Mission & Outreach Committee, Carol Gneckow, (406) 422-9914

## **Family Promise Comfort Food Challenge April 19 at College**

This year's Comfort Food Challenge in support of Family Promise will be held Sunday, April 19, 4-7 p.m., at Carroll College. Come, enjoy delicious food samples from restaurants and church congregations. Raffles and silent auction baskets will also be offered. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$45 for a family of up to 6 people, and are available at the door or from the FPC Mission & Outreach Committee.

## **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.

## **You're Invited!**

<b>Monday, April 13</b>	Christian Ed Committee 11 a.m. Mission Committee 1 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, April 14</b>	Worship Committee 10 a.m. Admin Committee 1 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, April 15</b>	Choir 2 p.m.

Bell Choir 3:30 p.m.  
**Thursday, April 16** *Holy Spirit* Bible Study 12/Noon  
Heritage Center Tour 1 p.m.  
**Friday, April 17** Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, April 19** Worship Service 10 a.m.  
Social Time 11 a.m.  
Home Communion Training 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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*Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189, Wednesdays 6 p.m. & Saturdays 9 a.m.*