

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Arlyn "Butch" Plowman

Organist: Ann Swisher

"The resurrection of Jesus was simply God's unwillingness to take our 'no' for an answer. He raised Jesus, not as an invitation to us to come to heaven when we die, but as a declaration that he himself has now established permanent, eternal residence here on earth. He is standing beside us, strengthening us in this life. The good news of the resurrection of Jesus is not that we shall die and go home to be with him, but that he has risen and comes home with us, bringing all his hungry, naked, thirsty, sick prisoner brothers with him."

*-Clarence Jordan, Baptist theologian and co-founder of Koinonia Farm (1912-1969)*

*\*Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

"Suite Gothique"

Leon Boellmann (1862-1897)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beloved church,  
behold the victory of our God:  
Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

**ALL: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: Sin and death shall reign no more.

**ALL: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

One: Let this place resound with joy.

**ALL: Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

**Thanks be to God.**

\*HYMN

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

GtG #232

Jesus Christ is risen today,  
Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day,  
Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross,  
Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss.  
Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing,  
Alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King,  
Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave,  
Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save.  
Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured,  
Alleluia!  
our salvation have procured.  
Alleluia!

Now above the sky he's King,  
Alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing.  
Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above,  
Alleluia!  
praise eternal as God's love.  
Alleluia!

Praise our God, ye heavenly host,  
Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia!

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit we have been raised from the waters of baptism to share in your glorious resurrection. Yet we have not lived as Easter people. We are unsure of your promise, confused about your will, and afraid in the face of danger. Like Mary, we weep at the tomb, but do not recognize your presence. Call us by name, risen Lord, that we may know you with confidence. Whenever we are tempted to fear death, give us courage to confess your Easter victory. Whenever we are distracted by petty conflicts, keep our minds on your reconciling love. Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil, reveal again to us your triumph over the destructive powers of oppression. Forgive us our sin and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (a moment of silent confession)**

**\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Listen, church: God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death. In the name of 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**

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Page 1225

The Lord said:

Israel, I promise

that someday all your tribes  
will again be my people,  
and I will be your God.

In the desert I was kind

to those who escaped death.  
I gave them peace,

and when the time is right,  
I'll do the same for you.  
I, the Lord, have spoken.

Some time ago, the Lord appeared to me<sup>(16)</sup> and told me to say:

Israel, I will always love you;  
that's why I've been so patient  
and kind.

You are precious to me,  
and so I will rebuild  
your nation.

Once again you will dance for joy  
and play your tambourines.

You will plant vineyards  
on the hills of Samaria  
and enjoy the grapes.

Someday those who guard  
the hill country of Ephraim  
will shout, "Let's go to Zion  
and worship the Lord our God."

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM READING

Psalm 118:1-4, 14-16, 19-26  
(Read responsively)

Page 956

Thank God because he's good,  
**because his love never quits.**

Tell the world, Israel,  
**"His love never quits."**

And you, clan of Aaron, tell the world,  
**"His love never quits."**

And you who fear God, join in,  
**"His love never quits."**

I was right on the cliff-edge, ready to fall,  
**when God grabbed and held me.**

**God's my strength, he's also my song,  
and now he's my salvation.**

Hear the shouts, hear the triumph songs  
in the camp of the saved?

**“The hand of God has turned the tide!**

The hand of God is raised in victory!

**The hand of God has turned the tide!”**

Swing wide the city gates—the *righteous* gates!

**I’ll walk right through and thank God!**

This Temple Gate belongs to God,  
so the victors can enter and praise.

**Thank you for responding to me;  
you’ve truly become my salvation!**

The stone the masons discarded as flawed  
is now the capstone!

**This is God’s work.**

**We rub our eyes—we can hardly believe it!**

This is the very day God acted—  
let’s celebrate and be festive!

**Salvation now, God. Salvation now!**

**Oh yes, God—a free and full life!**

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10:34-43

Page 1710

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness<sup>[a]</sup> is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Colossians 3:1-4

Page 1834

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Glorious Morning”

Michael Barrett

WELCOME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

John 20:1-18

Page 1685

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take

him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

\*HYMN

“Christ Is Alive!”

GtG #246

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes  
with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death,  
shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war  
where color, scorn,  
or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still,  
yet loves the more, and lives,  
where even hope has died.

Women and men,  
in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way,  
the life, the truth,

revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice,  
love, and praise.

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Nicene Creed*

**ALL: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Crown Him the Lord of Life”  
Matthew Bridges, Godgrey Thring, John Purifoy

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Christ Is Arisen”  
Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

*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

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

SANCTUS

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

GtG #552

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full  
of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
hosanna in the highest.

One: Great is the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION

One: The gifts of God for the people of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

\*HYMN

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

GtG #251

Christ has arisen, alleluia.

Rejoice and praise him, alleluia.

For our redeemer burst

from the tomb,

even from death,

dispelling its gloom.

Let us sing praise to him

with endless joy.

Death's fearful sting he has come

to destroy.

Our sin forgiving, alleluia!

Jesus is living, alleluia!

For three long days the grave  
did its worst  
until its strength by God  
was dispersed.

He who gives life  
did death undergo,  
and in its conquest his might  
did show.

Let us sing praise to him  
with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come  
to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!

The angel said to them,  
"Do not fear.  
You look for Jesus  
who is not here.

See for yourselves  
the tomb is all bare.  
Only the grave clothes  
are lying there."

Let us sing praise to him  
with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come  
to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!

"Go spread the news:  
he's not in the grave.  
He has arisen this world to save.  
Jesus' redeeming labors are done.  
Even the battle with sin is won."

Let us sing praise to him  
with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come  
to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!

Christ has arisen to set us free.  
Alleluia, to him praises be.  
Jesus is living! Let us all sing;  
he reigns triumphant,  
heavenly King.

Let us sing praise to him  
with endless joy.  
Death's fearful sting he has come  
to destroy.  
Our sin forgiving, alleluia!  
Jesus is living, alleluia!

\*CHARGE

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Lift High the Cross"  
arr. John Leavitt (b. 1956)

# **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!

## **Home Communion**

Today, we are celebrating Communion in our in-person worship service. We are glad to extend Communion to congregants who are unable to join us in person by having two of our elders/deacons visit for home Communion. If you are in need of home Communion, please contact Art Bumgardner, moderator of the deacons, by calling 406-468-8342 or emailing him at [renart1962@gmail.com](mailto:renart1962@gmail.com). We want to ensure that all in our congregation are able to celebrate Communion.

## **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.

## **Home Communion Training April 19**

Pastor Emily will facilitate a home communion training on April 19 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.

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

The Family Promise Comfort Food Challenge will be held Sunday, April 19, 4-7 p.m., at Carroll College. Come, enjoy delicious food samples from restaurants and church congregations. FPC's Melissa Stiles will be serving up biscuits and gravy! 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 and from the FPC Mission & Outreach Committee.

## You're Invited!

<b>Monday, April 6</b>	Personnel Committee 10 a.m. <i>Church Office Closed</i>
<b>Wednesday, April 8</b>	Buildings & Grounds 10 a.m. Friendship Committee 1 p.m. Choir 2 p.m. Bell Choir 3:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday, March 9</b>	<i>Holy Spirit</i> Bible Study 12/noon
<b>Friday, March 10</b>	Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, March 12</b>	Worship Service 10 a.m. Social Time 11 a.m. Deacons 11:15 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



### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)**

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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.*