

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Janet Potter

Liturgist: Art Bumgardner

Organist: Ann Swisher

*Please meditate silently, or listen to the prelude  
as you prepare your heart for worship.*

*\*Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“In Joyful Praise”

Laurence Lyon (1934-2006)

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters,

**ALL: and gives us refreshment of soul.**

One: Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go,

**ALL: so that the name of God will be glorified.**

One: Though all manner of evil befall us, we will not be afraid,

**ALL: for the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.**

One: We are never away from the love and mercy of the Lord,

**ALL: and we shall be with him for ever and ever. Amen!**

\*GATHERING HYMN

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

GtG #14

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

Lord of all,  
to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale,

and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light:

Lord of all,  
to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight:

Lord of all,  
to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth,  
and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

Lord of all,  
to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best gift divine  
to the world so freely given;  
for that great,  
great love of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Lord of all,  
to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

(based on Psalm 51)

One: Have mercy on us, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, forgive us. Free us from the guilt that weighs us down, from the sin that controls us.

**ALL: We have sinned against you, and done what is wrong in your eyes. We are well aware of the wrong we do: the words we speak which wound, the unloving thoughts and actions which hurt others and ourselves. We know that these things distance us from you, and keep us from recognizing your life in us. Forgive us.**

One: You desire complete honesty from us. We know that nothing can be hidden from you. And so we lay open our hearts to you now—we lay before you those things for which we need your forgiveness, and those things from which we long to be set free. Gracious God, enter our hearts. Teach us what it means to have you at the center of our lives.

**ALL: God, we need your mercy and forgiveness. Only you can make us whole again; only you can fill us with lasting joy, only you can transform our weakness into strength. O God, look no longer on our past mistakes, but on the aspirations and longing of our hearts.**

One: Create in us clean hearts, O God, open and receptive to your Spirit.

**ALL: Create in us clean hearts, O God, washed clean from bitter thoughts, from shame, guilt, envy and anger.**

One: Create in us clean hearts, O God, free from anxiety about the past or the future, confident in the presence of your Holy Spirit, and in your gift of peace.

**ALL: Create in us clean hearts, O God, cleansed by your mercy, and made strong by your love.**

One: Loving and merciful God,

**ALL: we have so little to bring to You. But what we have, we willingly give: our humble spirits and contrite hearts. We long to be your disciples, to follow your path for our lives, and to share with others the good news of your love and mercy.**

*(a moment of silent prayer)*

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

(based on Psalm 103:8)

One: Our God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, full of unfailing love. Today, receive God's forgiveness and live as you are forgiven.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

PEACE OF CHRIST

\*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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

Psalm 23  
Lamentations 3:19-24

Page 862

Page 1279

SERMON "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy"

SERMON SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:7

Page 1501

\*RESPONSE HYMN

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

GtG #630

Fairest Lord Jesus,  
Ruler of all nature,  
O thou of God to earth  
come down,

Thee will I cherish,  
thee will I honor,  
thou, my soul's glory, joy,  
and crown.

Fair are the meadows,  
fairer still the woodlands,  
robed in the blooming garb

of spring.

Jesus is fairer;  
Jesus is purer,  
who makes the woeful heart  
to sing.

Fair is the sunshine,  
fairer still the moonlight,  
and all the twinkling,  
starry host.

Jesus shines brighter;  
Jesus shines purer,  
than all the angels heaven  
can boast.

Beautiful Savior,  
Ruler of the nations,  
Son of God  
and Son of Man!

Glory and honor,  
praise, adoration,  
now and forevermore  
be thine!

#### STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Study Catechism

One: Q. 63. What is the mission of the church?

**ALL: The mission of the church is to bear witness to God's love for the world in Jesus Christ.**

One: Q. 64. What forms does this mission take?

**ALL: The forms are as various as the forms of God's love, yet the center is always Jesus Christ. The church is faithful to its mission when it extends mercy and forgiveness to**

**the needy in ways that point finally to him. For in the end it is always by Christ's mercy that the needs of the needy are met.**

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY            "Children of the Heavenly Father"  
  Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

\*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.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

UNISON LORD'S PRAYER

\*SENDING HYMN                         "Let All Things Now Living"   GtG #37

Let all things now living  
a song of thanksgiving  
to God our Creator  
triumphantly raise;

Who fashioned and made us,  
protected and stayed us,  
by guiding us on to the end  
of our days.

God's banners are o'er us;  
pure light goes before us,

a pillar of fire shining forth  
in the night:

Till shadows have vanished,  
all fearfulness banished,  
as forward we travel  
from light into light.

By law God enforces,  
the stars in their courses,  
the sun in its orbit  
obediently shine;

The hills and the mountains,  
the rivers and fountains,  
the depths of the ocean  
proclaim God divine.

We too should be voicing  
our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration,  
a song let us raise,

Till all things now living  
unite in thanksgiving:  
to God in the highest,  
hosanna and praise!

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Ricercare on St. Anne”  
Gordon Young (1919-1998)

# Announcements

## **Welcome!**

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us today! Please sign the red fellowship pad in your pew and pass it to your neighbor. After the service, join us for refreshments and conversation. To bring treats for Fellowship Time, sign up on the sheet on the coffee table.

## **Doors locked during service**

Following an active shooter training class last month, Session has decided to lock the main entrance doors during the worship service. The doors will be locked from 10:15 to 11 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The doors will be unlocked again between 11 a.m. and noon.

## **Come tour the Capitol with us today!**

You are invited to join us in touring the Capitol today! The tour will include a visit to the “Historical Women of Montana.” We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:45 p.m., and carpool to the Capitol. Treats at Dairy Queen will follow!

## **Family Promise helpers needed**

FPC will host Family Promise May 26-27. Signup sheets are out today for volunteers to bring food or to stay overnight with the Family Promise clients at First Christian Church. For details, visit with Co-Volunteer Coordinators Joy Edgar or Larry Mirch.

## **Special Congregational Meeting**

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on May 26, immediately following worship. The purpose is to elect Darlene McNay as a Deacon for the Class of 2025.

## **Thank you**

Thank you to all who donated women’s products in honor or memory of the special women in their lives. The donation cards will be printed in next Sunday’s bulletin.

## **You’re Invited!**

<b>Monday, May 13</b>	Mission 1 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, May 15</b>	Choir 2 p.m.
<b>Thursday, May 16</b>	Prayer Time 11 a.m.
<b>Friday, May 17</b>	Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m. Movie & Dinner 4 p.m.
<b>Sunday, May 19</b> <i>(Pentecost – Wear Red)</i>	Worship 10 a.m. Social Time 11 a.m.



## Staff

Ministers—Every Member

Organist—Ann Swisher

Pastor—Rev. Janet Potter

Treasurer—Leo Potter

Director of Music & Media—Les Cramer

Office Coordinator—Julie Young

## Elders

John Coefield (B&G; Nominating)

Sheryl Eriksen (Fellowship)

Jeff Chaffee (Personnel)

Barb Leland

Jim Meyer (Administration)

Patti Borsberry

Butch Plowman

Karen Witte (Mission)

John Gneckow, Clerk of Session

## Deacons

Julie Chaffee

Joy Edgar

BJ Burns

Candace Coefield (Moderator)

Merle Korizek

Kathy Chambers

Lonna Weidemann

Carole Massman

Jill Cook

Vicky Bryan



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

535 North Ewing Street ~ Helena, MT 59601

**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Phone:** 406-442-4775 **Email:** [admin@fpchelena.org](mailto:admin@fpchelena.org) **Website:** [www.fpchelena.org](http://www.fpchelena.org)

**Pastor Janet Potter**

**Phone:** 406-442-4775

**Email:** [pastor@fpchelena.org](mailto:pastor@fpchelena.org)