

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Alysia Ryan

Organist: Ann Swisher

“The similitude of the wind to the Spirit’s coming suggests not only its absolute power but its absolute uncontrollability. No structure is stronger than the wind, and there is nothing beyond its touch.”

-Willie James Jennings, *Acts: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Come, Holy Spirit, Lord God”

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Written by Gord Waldie

One: The Spirit is here among us,

ALL: within us, around us, between us.

One: The Spirit is here to strengthen us,

ALL: bringing courage, bringing conviction.

One: The Spirit is here to move us,

ALL: making us sing and praise.

One: The Spirit is here.

ALL: May we feel the Spirit as we gather.

May we be fed by her fiery strength.

May we be emboldened by her powerful wind.

One: We gather in the Spirit's arms to be nurtured as we worship.

ALL: And may our worship fill us with the Spirit

as we go back out into our daily lives.

*HYMN

“Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us”

GtG #280

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us;
come with Pentecostal power;
give the church a stronger vision;
help us face each crucial hour.

Built upon a firm foundation,
Jesus Christ, the Cornerstone,
still the church is called to mission
that God's love
shall be made known.

We would raise our alleluias
for the grace of yesteryears;
for tomorrow's unknown pathway,
hear, O Lord, our humble prayers.

In the church's pilgrim journey
you have led us all the way;
still in presence move before us,
fire by night and cloud by day.

Come, O Spirit, dwell among us;
give us words of fire and flame.
Help our feeble lips to praise you,
glorify your holy name.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Three in One: what mystery!
We would sing our loud hosannas
now and through eternity.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: O God, you who are always doing a new thing. We confess that we sometimes close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change. God of every place and time, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns. Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes, our shuttered churches, the security systems on our hearts. Open up our lives and let your Spirit blow through. Amen.

(a moment of silent confession)

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

One: People of God, body of Christ, sisters and brothers, the Spirit of God's truth has come upon creation and upon you, to interpret the mysteries of eternal time. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior, and by the authority of the church, I declare to you the complete forgiveness of your sin.

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

Joel 2:18-32

Page 1415

Then the LORD was jealous for his land
and took pity on his people.

The LORD replied to them:

"I am sending you grain, new wine and olive oil,
enough to satisfy you fully;
never again will I make you
an object of scorn to the nations.

"I will drive the northern horde far from you,
pushing it into a parched and barren land;
its eastern ranks will drown in the Dead Sea
and its western ranks in the Mediterranean Sea.
And its stench will go up;
its smell will rise."

Surely he has done great things!

Do not be afraid, land of Judah;
be glad and rejoice.

Surely the LORD has done great things!

Do not be afraid, you wild animals,
for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green.
The trees are bearing their fruit;
the fig tree and the vine yield their riches.
Be glad, people of Zion,
rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given you the autumn rains
because he is faithful.
He sends you abundant showers,
both autumn and spring rains, as before.
The threshing floors will be filled with grain;
the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—
the great locust and the young locust,
the other locusts and the locust swarm—
my great army that I sent among you.
You will have plenty to eat, until you are full,
and you will praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has worked wonders for you;
never again will my people be shamed.
Then you will know that I am in Israel,
that I am the LORD your God,
and that there is no other;
never again will my people be shamed.

“And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.
Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.
I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.
The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.
And everyone who calls
on the name of the LORD will be saved;
for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem

there will be deliverance,
as the LORD has said,
even among the survivors
whom the LORD calls.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING

Psalm 104

Page 940

Praise the LORD, my soul.

LORD my God, you are very great;
you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment;
he stretches out the heavens like a tent
and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters.
He makes the clouds his chariot
and rides on the wings of the wind.
He makes winds his messengers,
flames of fire his servants.

He set the earth on its foundations;
it can never be moved.
You covered it with the watery depths as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.
But at your rebuke the waters fled,
at the sound of your thunder they took to flight;
they flowed over the mountains,
they went down into the valleys,
to the place you assigned for them.
You set a boundary they cannot cross;
never again will they cover the earth.

He makes springs pour water into the ravines;
it flows between the mountains.
They give water to all the beasts of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
The birds of the sky nest by the waters;
they sing among the branches.
He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate—
bringing forth food from the earth:
wine that gladdens human hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.
The trees of the LORD are well watered,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
There the birds make their nests;
the stork has its home in the junipers.
The high mountains belong to the wild goats;
the crags are a refuge for the hyrax.

He made the moon to mark the seasons,
and the sun knows when to go down.
You bring darkness, it becomes night,
and all the beasts of the forest prowl.
The lions roar for their prey
and seek their food from God.
The sun rises, and they steal away;
they return and lie down in their dens.
Then people go out to their work,
to their labor until evening.
How many are your works, LORD!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.
There the ships go to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.
When you give it to them,
they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.
When you hide your face,
they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to the dust.

When you send your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—
he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the LORD.
But may sinners vanish from the earth
and the wicked be no more.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

Praise the LORD.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-23

Page 1686

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and 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."

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Pentecost Proclamation"

John A. Behnke

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:1-21

Page 1692

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*HYMN

“Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading”

GtG #287

Gracious Spirit, heed our pleading;
fashion us all anew.
It's your leading
that we're needing;
help us to follow you.

Come, come, come,
Holy Spirit, come.
Come, come, come,
Holy Spirit, come.

Come to teach us; come to nourish
those who believe in Christ.
Bless the faithful;
may they flourish,
strengthened by grace unpriced.

Come, come, come,
Holy Spirit, come.
Come, come, come,
Holy Spirit, come.

Guide our thinking
and our speaking
done in your holy name.
Motivate all in their seeking,
freeing from guilt and shame.

Come, come, come,
Holy Spirit, come.

Come, come, come,
Holy Spirit, come.

Not mere knowledge,
but discernment,
nor rootless liberty;
turn disquiet to contentment,
doubt into certainty.

Come, come, come,
Holy Spirit, come.
Come, come, come,
Holy Spirit, come.

Keep us fervent in our witness,
unswayed by earth's allure.
Ever grant us zealous fitness,
which you alone assure.

Come, come, come,
Holy Spirit, come.
Come, come, come,
Holy Spirit, come.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from The Westminster Confession of Faith

ALL: The Holy Spirit, the third Person in the Trinity, proceeding from the Father and the Son, of the same substance and equal in power and glory, is, together with the Father and the Son, to be believed in, loved, obeyed, and worshipped throughout all ages. The Holy Spirit is the Lord and Giver of life, everywhere present, and is the source of all good thoughts, pure desires, and holy counsels in people. The Holy Spirit regenerates people by the Holy Spirit's grace, convicts them of sin, moves them to repentance, and persuades and enables them to embrace Jesus Christ by faith. The Holy Spirit unites all believers to Christ, dwells in them as their Comforter and Sanctifier, gives to them the spirit of Adoption and Prayer, and performs all those gracious offices by which they are sanctified

and sealed unto the day of redemption. By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit all believers being vitally united to Christ, who is the Head, are thus united one to another in the Church, which is his body. By the Holy Spirit the Church will be preserved, increased, purified, and at last made perfectly holy in the presence of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

SPECIAL MUSIC "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"
Morecambe (George Croly, 1854), arr. Larry Sue

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Come Down, O Love Divine"
Down Ampney, by Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. Larry Sue

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 "God of Grace and God of Glory" GtG #307

God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom,

grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long
have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's
warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton,
selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore.
Let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,

serving thee whom we adore.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Come, God Creator, Holy Spirit”
Johann Walther (1684-1748)

Announcements

Welcome!

A special welcome to visitors joining us for worship today. 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!

Memorial Day Tribute

We are grateful to Max Oliver and Ann Swisher for sharing a Memorial Day tribute, “Requiem for a Soldier,” after today’s service. Music is by Michael Kamen and words by Frank Musker.

Summer Worship Planning Tuesday, May 26

Our Summer Worship Planning Team will meet on Tuesday, May 26th at 10:00am in the church library. If you have ideas about worship this summer, please join us!

Graveside Service for Katie Spiroff May 27

A graveside committal service for FPC member Katie Spiroff will be held Wednesday, May 27, at 10:30 a.m. at the Committal Shelter of the Montana State Veteran Cemetery at Fort Harrison. A social gathering will be held later at Touchmark, date and time to be announced when arrangements have been completed. Katie passed away May 11.

Sign Up to Tour Intermountain Children’s Home

Sign up to tour the Intermountain Children's Home, Friday, May 29, 10:00-11:30 AM. We will meet on the Campus. Thank you! Questions? Call Carol Gneckow, (406) 422-9914.

Fifth Sunday Potluck May 31

Another "Fifth Sunday Potluck" is coming up May 31, following the church service. Bring an item to share and meet your church friends in Richardson Hall for a fun time of food and fellowship. Three people will tell their stories. Who will they be? Come and find out!

Fall Spiritual Formation Retreat

Pastor Emily will facilitate 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 Sept. 10-12 at Glacier Camp on Flathead Lake. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Emily know.

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!

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, May 26 | Worship Planning Team 10 a.m. |
| Thursday, May 28 | <i>Holy Spirit</i> Bible Study 12/noon |
| Friday, May 29 | Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m. Intermountain Tour 10 a.m. |
| Sunday, May 31 | Worship Service 10 a.m. 5th 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



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 **Website:** www.fpchelena.org

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.