

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Commissioned Pastor: Dianna Goodman

Liturgist: Sharon King

Organist: Ann Swisher

This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Adagio”

Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Open your ears, O faithful people,

ALL: they who have ears to hear the message,

One: They who have ears, now let them hear,

ALL: they who would learn the way of wisdom,

One: Let them hear God’s word,

ALL: God has spoken to the people, God has spoken words of wisdom, Hallelujah.

*GATHERING HYMN

“God of the Fertile Fields”

GtG #714

God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields
our daily bread:

Forth from your bounteous hand
come gifts your love has planned,
that all in every land
be clothed and fed.

We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you
all that you give;

Help us in love to share,

teach us like you to care
for people everywhere,
that all may live.

As grows the hidden seed
to fruit that serves our need,
so your reign grows.

Let all our toil be used,
no gift of yours abused,
no humble task refused
your love bestows.

God of the countryside,
dear to the Christ who died
to make us one:

We pledge our lives anew
in faithful love to you.
Guide all we say and do.
Your will be done.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: God of amazing surprises, how easy it is for us to focus on the big picture and forget that change comes in the smallest of ways, in our hearts, our spirits, and then in our actions. We have gathered today, coming from different experiences, to hear your word of healing love. We offer prayers for friends and family who need your healing and forgiveness. Yet we withhold ourselves from you. We find it hard to imagine that you would find much real worth in each of us. We think of ourselves as insignificant in your kingdom. But you have poured your love into us. You have given us the seeds of hope and compassion; you have called us the treasure that is meant to enrich the world. Help us be those people who are confident in your presence, that we dare to step out in faith, to work for you in places of need and strife; to witness your love in all

that we do, proclaiming your presence with our words and actions. Give us your guidance, your forgiveness, and courage to be at work in your kingdom. Amen.

(a moment of silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PEACE OF CHRIST

*“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

GtG #582

Glory to God, whose goodness
shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has
pardoned me,

And to the Spirit, whose love has
set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end.
Amen.

World without end, without end.
Amen.

World without end, without end.
Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“To Every Thing There Is a Season”

Daniel Pinkham, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Art Bumgardner, soloist

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 28:23-27

Page 1744

SERMON SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:1-23

Page 1516

SERMON

“How Does Your Garden Grow?”

RESPONSE 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.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Theological Declaration of Barmen 8.26

ALL: The Church's commission, upon which its freedom is founded, consists in delivering the message of the free grace of God to all people in Christ's stead, and therefore in the ministry of His own Word and work through sermon and Sacrament.

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Improvisation from Suite Medievale"
Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

*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 "Great God of Every Blessing" GtG #694

Great God of every blessing,
of faithful, loving care,
you are the fount of goodness,

the daily bread we share.

How can we hope to thank you?

Our praise is but a start:
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

Your Word is our salvation,
the source of endless grace,
in death and life extending
your covenant embrace.

In Christ we are one body;
each member has a part:
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

Your Spirit is our teacher,
the light that guides our search,
transforming broken people
into the holy church.

For feeding us with mercy,
for wisdom you impart:
sincerely and completely
I offer you my heart.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Grand Jeu from Suite Baroque”
Jean Langlais

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!

Thank you, Dianna!

Thank you Commissioned Pastor Dianna Goodman for leading us in worship today and next Sunday while we await the arrival of our new pastor in August.

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. on Sunday mornings. The doors are unlocked again between 11 a.m. and noon.

Looking Ahead . . .

Rev. Emily Cowser will begin Aug. 3, with Aug. 10 her first Sunday in the pulpit. Between now and Monday, Aug. 4, Dianna Goodman and Butch Plowman will provide pastoral care and lead our worship services.

Welcoming Pastor Emily

Our new pastor - Emily Cowser - will be arriving at 1:58pm on Friday, Aug. 1, at the Helena Airport. Church members and friends are asked to "come if you can" to welcome her at that time as she gets off the plane. Wouldn't it be great if FPC could fill the airport waiting area! We hope to see you there.

Also . . .

There's a big laundry basket near the entrance of the sanctuary. Please bring cleaning items and anything else that might be helpful to someone moving into a new apartment. This is for our new pastor, Emily, who will move into her apartment on Aug. 6. Thanks!

FPC Hosting Family Promise July 27-28

FPC will be helping Family Promise, providing meals and overnight hosts on Sunday, July 27, and Monday, July 28. A signup sheet with details is in the fellowship area. For more information, call our Family Promise volunteer coordinator Larry Mirch at (406) 916-6447.

Backpack Collection Continues

The Mission & Outreach Committee is asking the congregation buy backpacks for the homeless now until Aug. 24. A box is available in the Narthex for your donations. There is also a table for you to place items such as socks (adult/male/female), toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap, etc. This outreach is with the United Way of Helena. Thank you FPC for your donations and support! Blessings to all. Carol Gneckow, Mission & Outreach Chairperson, (406) 422-9914.

You're Invited!

Friday, July 25	Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 27	Worship Service 10 a.m. Social Time 11 a.m.

Staff

Ministers—Every Member	Organist—Ann Swisher
Pastor—Vacant until Aug. 3	Treasurer—Leo Potter
Director of Music & Media—Les Cramer	Office Coordinator—Julie Young

FPC Elders

Patti Borsberry
(Worship Chair)

Jeff Chaffee
(Personnel Chair)

Barb Leland
(Friendship Chair)

John Bryan
(Christian Ed Chair)

John Warren
(Nominating Chair)

Jim Meyer
(Administration Chair)

Butch Plowman
(Building & Grounds 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.