

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Max Oliver

Pianist: Merle Korizek

“Waiting for safety before we live is a losing strategy. The world has always been fragile. The illusion was that it wasn’t. Though we are experiencing moral erosion and our awareness is growing with it, this awareness is not meant to paralyze us. It is meant to wake us up—to call us back to lives rooted in love, responsibility, and truth, even when outcomes are uncertain. The world may be on fire—but this, too, is where God meets us.

Awake now. Paying attention. Still choosing what is human.”

-Kate Bowler, author and professor of American religious history

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Lord, Be Glorified”

Bob Kilpatrick

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from The Message by Eugene Peterson

One: Thank God! Pray to him by name!

Tell everyone you meet what he has done!

**ALL: Sing him songs, belt out hymns,
translate his wonders into music!**

One: Honor his holy name with Hallelujahs,
you who seek God. Live a happy life!

**ALL: Keep your eyes open for God, watch for his works;
be alert for signs of his presence.**

One: Remember the world of wonders he has made,
his miracles, and the verdicts he’s rendered.

**ALL: He’s God, our God,
in charge of the whole earth.**

One: And he remembers, remembers his Covenant—
for a thousand generations he’s been as good as his word.

*HYMN

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

GtG #39

Great is thy faithfulness,
O God my Father;

there is no shadow
of turning with thee.

Thou changest not;
thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been
thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning,
new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand
hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and
springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their
courses above

Join with all nature
in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness,
mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning,
new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand
hath provided.

Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace
that endureth,
thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide,

Strength for today and
bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine,
with ten thousand beside!

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning,
new mercies I see.

All I have needed thy hand
hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ALL: O Lord our God, you call us to proclaim the gospel, but we remain silent in the presence of evil. You call us to be reconciled to you and one another, but we are content to live in separation. You call us to seek the good of all, but we fail to resist the powers of oppression. You call us to fight pretensions and injustice, but we sit idly by, endangering the lives of people far and near. Forgive us, O Lord. Reconcile us to you by the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage and strength to be reconciled to others; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. *(a moment of silent confession)*

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Hear these words from Paul's letter to the Romans: What then are we to say about these

things? If God is for us, who is against us? Sisters and brothers, nothing we have done, nothing we will ever do, is enough to separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ. In 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
One: The Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Genesis 29:15—30:24

Page 45

NEW TESTAMENT READING
One: The Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Romans 8:18-39

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GOSPEL READING
One: The Gospel of the Lord.
ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

Matthew 13:44-53

Page 1519

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Nearer My God, To Thee”
Cantabile—Balcarras Boys Choir

Video

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM READING
One: The Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 105

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SERMON

*HYMN

“Our God, Our Help in Ages Past”

GtG #687

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,

and our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch
that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard
while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From A Brief Statement of Faith

ALL: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Prayer"

Ludvig Van Beethoven

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

"I Love to Tell the Story"

GtG #462

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story,

because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else could do.

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story;
'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!

I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it, like the rest.

And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story;

'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

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!

Town Hall & Breakfast Today!

Our Strategic Planning Team is hosting a town hall today after worship to share about the work that it has been doing around updating our mission and vision statements, clarifying strategic goals, and creating action plans for meeting those goals. Handouts with the updated mission and vision statements, and strategic goals, are available on the table as you enter into the sanctuary . Please join us for this important conversation. Breakfast casseroles, donuts, fruit, and coffee will be served before the Town Hall.

Tim Lanham Memorial Gathering & Service

A memorial gathering for the Rev. Tim Lanham will be hosted by Sunrise Presbyterian Church (Tim's former congregation) on Friday, July 31, at 1 p.m. The church is located at 3809 6th Avenue South in Great Falls. The memorial service for Tim will be held at Glacier Camp on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 3 p.m., followed by a community dinner. Those who stay overnight will be served a breakfast of sausage, biscuits, and gravy in honor of Tim. This was his favorite breakfast. If you plan to spend the night, the camp is charging a \$100 per person fee for room and board.

Fall Spiritual Formation Retreat

Registration is open for our fall spiritual formation retreat at Glacier Camp. Together, we will explore the purpose and nature of prayer, our struggles with prayer, and a variety of ways to pray. The retreat begins with dinner on Thursday, Sept. 10, and will conclude by noon on Saturday, Sept., 12. The cost of the retreat is \$330

per room and \$110 per person for meals. To register, email Pastor Emily at pastor@fpchelena.org and make a check payable to the church. Registration closes on Aug. 31. If you are in need of financial assistance to attend, please contact Pastor Emily. Scholarships are available. Come enjoy an opportunity to connect with God and one another!

Save the Date! Church Picnic Aug. 30

August 30 is the date for this year's summer picnic, which will be held at Kennedy Park in East Helena. Please plan to bring a dish or dessert to share, along with a chair. The Congregational Life Committee will provide the fried chicken. We hope you will join us!

Fall Worship Planning Team

Our Fall Worship Planning Team will meet on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at noon in the church library. If you have ideas about worship, please join us!

Hymn Requests

If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to be sung in worship, please email Pastor Emily at pastor@fpchelena.org, and she will be sure to incorporate it into a future worship service when it connects with the themes of our Scripture readings.

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!

Sunday, August 2

Worship Service w/Communion 10 a.m.
Social Time 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

John Bryan

(Congregational Life Co-Chair)

Jim Meyer

(Administration Co-Chair)

Patti Borsberry

(Congregational Life Co-Chair)

Dianna Goodman
(Nominating Chair)

Butch Plowman
(Buildings & Grounds Chair)

Matthew Richards
(Administration Co-Chair)

Carol Gneckow
(Mission & Outreach Chair)

Max Oliver, Clerk of Session

FPC Deacons

Bonnie Anderson
Ward Stiles, Vice-Moderator

Vicky Bryan
Art Bumgardner, Moderator
Rena Bumgardner
Ria Caussyn
Carole Massman

Wanda Jewell
Alysia Ryan



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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.