

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Dianna Goodman

Organist: Ann Swisher

"Christians were never meant to be normal. We've always been holy troublemakers, we've always been creators of uncertainty, agents of a dimension that's incompatible with the status quo; we do not accept the world as it is, but we insist on the world becoming the way that God wants it to be. And the Realm of God is different from the patterns of this world." -Jacques Ellul, French philosopher, theologian, and professor

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

"Allegro from Suite Gothique"

Leon Boellmann (1862-1897)

WELCOME

**CALL TO WORSHIP Based on Eugene Peterson's version of Isaiah 1:10-20 in The Message and posted by Joanna Harader*

One: God says, "Quit your worship charades. I can't stand your trivial religious games.

ALL: When you put on your next prayer-performance, I'll be looking the other way."

One: Are we here as a charade?

ALL: Are we playing a game?

One: Are our prayers just a way to show off how spiritual we are?

ALL: Why are we here?

One: Not to show that we are wonderful people,

ALL: but to become better people.

One: To strengthen our spirits as we seek to live out God's call:

ALL: Say no to wrong.

One: Learn to do good.

ALL: Work for justice.

One: Help the down-and-out.

ALL: Stand up for the homeless.

One: Go to bat for the defenseless.

ALL: May this time of worship bear fruit for the Kingdom of God. Amen.

*HYMN

"Bring Many Names"

GtG #760

Bring many names,
beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable
and story,

Holiness in glory,
living, loving God.
Hail and Hosanna!
Bring many names!

Strong mother God,
working night and day,
planning all the wonders
of creation,

Setting each equation
genius at play:
Hail and Hosanna,
strong mother God!

Warm father God,
hugging every child,
feeling all the strains
of human living,

Caring and forgiving
till we're reconciled:
Hail and Hosanna,
warm father God!

Old, aching God,
gray with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's
new disguises,

Glad of good surprises,
wiser than despair:
Hail and Hosanna,
old, aching God!

Young, growing God,
eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood
and unkindness,

Crying out for justice,
giving all you have:
Hail and Hosanna,
young, growing God!

Great, living God,
never fully known,
joyful darkness far
beyond our seeing,

Closer yet than breathing,
everlasting home:
Hail and Hosanna,
great, living God!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: O God, your call for justice is so clear that we are amazed at how easily we fail to hear you over the din of daily life. We want to cease to do evil. We want to learn to do good. Yet, we rarely do all we can to rescue, defend, and plead for those in need. As you have sought us out, so we seek your pardon. Grant us courage, we pray, as persons, as communities, and as nations, to bring about the justice you desire. Amen.

(a moment of silent prayer)

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: The apostle Paul writes in the letter to the Philippians that our righteousness is found in Christ alone, a gift of God by faith. Beloved people of God, believe the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ we 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.

PSALM READING

Psalms 50

Page 888

GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:32-40

Page 1618

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Hebrews 11:1-16

Page 1874

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Lord of the Dance”

Traditional Shaker Melody

Text by Sydney Carter; Mike Swisher, Baritone

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 1:1-20

Page 1059

SERMON

*HYMN

“Come! Live in the Light!”

GtG #749

Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy
and the love of the Lord!

We are called
to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom
of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy
to all those in fear!

We are called
to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and violence
will be no more.

We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day
when all will be one!

God will reign,
and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers
united in love.

We are called to act with justice;
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Belhar Confession*

ALL: We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

That God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged.

That God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

That God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

One: The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,

ALL: the world, and those who live in it.

One: Let us present to God our lives and offerings, grateful for the gifts we have been given.

OFFERTORY

"Aria"

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

*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

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

GtG #757

Today we all are called to be
disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free,

make plowshare out of sword,

To feed the hungry,
quench their thirst,
make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor
and homeless first,
our ease and comfort last.

God made the world
and at its birth
ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth,
responding to God's grace.

But we are vain and sadly proud;
we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud
that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down
as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field
and town
to cleanse us and redeem.

For God is longing to restore
an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for
a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God
act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints
have trod

till all have seen and heard.

As stewards of the earth may we
give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be
disciples of the Lord.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

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!

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.

Sign Up for Aug. 21 Boating Day

Dianna and Barb are planning a Gates of the Mountains boating day for Thursday, Aug. 21, at 11 a.m. They can take 12 people. See the signup sheet with details on the coffee table.

Backpack Collection Continues

The Mission & Outreach Committee continues to collect backpacks and personal care items for the homeless through Aug. 24. A box is available in the Narthex for your donations. For details, visit with Carol Gneckow, Mission & Outreach Chairperson, (406) 422-9914.

Save the Date! Church Picnic Sunday, Aug. 24

Join us for a church picnic Sunday, Aug. 24! After the service, we’ll meet at Kennedy Park in East Helena. The Friendship Committee is providing chicken. You are asked to bring a side dish and chair (if you have one.) Food, fun and entertainment offered!

Sidewalk Repairs Continue

Sidewalk repairs are underway. To prevent damage to your vehicle and to allow access for the contractor's equipment, please do not park along the outer edge of the parking lot until the work is completed. Thank you!

You're Invited!

Monday, Aug. 11	Christian Education Noon Mission & Outreach 1 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 12	Worship Committee 10 a.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 13	Building & Grounds 10 a.m. Administration 4 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 15	Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 17	Worship Service 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

Patti Borsberry (Worship Chair)	John Bryan (Christian Ed Chair)	Jim Meyer (Administration Chair)
Jeff Chaffee (Personnel Chair)	John Warren (Nominating Chair)	Butch Plowman (Building & Grounds Chair)
Barb Leland (Friendship Chair)		Carol Gneckow (Mission & Outreach Chair)

John Gneckow, Clerk of Session

FPC Deacons

BJ Burns	Bonnie Anderson	Vicky Bryan
Kathy Chambers	Ward Stiles, Vice-Moderator	Art Bumgardner, Moderator
Jill Cook		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.