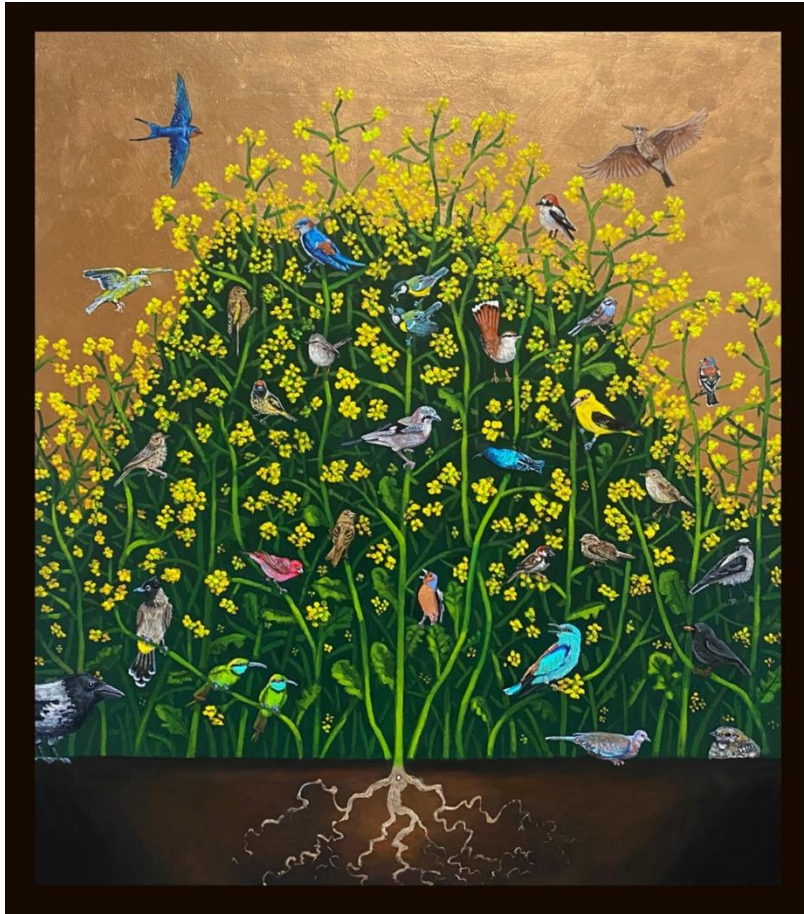


*Growing in Faith, Supporting One Another,
and Sharing Christ's Love*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

535 North Ewing Street

Helena, MT 59601

Sunday, August 30, 2026 ~ 10 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Alysia Ryan

Pianist: Merle Korizek

“For some strange reason, God doesn’t want to change the world without us. There are times when we throw our hands up at God and say, “Do something!” and if we listen closely, we can hear God respond, “I did do something. I made you.” Sometimes we are waiting on God, and God is waiting on us.”

-Shane Claiborne, *The Irresistible Revolution: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

Adoniram J. Gordon

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Joanna Harader

One: Gentle and patient

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Intentional and persistent

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: In times of grief and in times of praise

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Through the struggles and through the victories

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Unexpected and planned

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: In a still small voice and in power

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Spontaneous and prepared

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: In our willingness and in our reluctance

ALL: Jesus calls us to follow him.

One: Jesus is eager to show us the way. May we enter worship open to his leading.

*HYMN

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

GtG #36

For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.

For the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while
we are sleeping,
future needs
in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor,
God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will be done.

In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will be done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,

thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still
confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Adapted from christianaid.org

ALL: Generous God, whose giving knows neither measure nor end, we confess that all too often we have kept our own hearts, hands, and minds firmly closed. Forgive us for those times when our own wants and wishes have filled the horizon to the exclusion of all else and made us blind and deaf to the needs and concerns of others. Forgive us for those moments when the fear that sharing what we have will lead to our own impoverishment has kept us silent and still while those around us are in need. Forgive us for those situations when seeing only a problem rather than daring to dream a solution has left us fettered and powerless where we might have been building your kingdom. Forgive us, O God. Help us to move beyond our self-centeredness, greed, and fear, and to act as those who know the hope that is rooted in your generosity. *(a moment of silent confession)*

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Friends, hear the good news:
Christ has broken the power of sin and evil
and has opened to us the way of eternal life.
In the name of 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

Exodus 3:1-22

Page 90

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING

Psalm 105

Read Responsively

(The Message)

One: Hallelujah!

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—
O seed of Abraham, his servant,
O child of Jacob, his chosen.

**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.

**ALL: It's the Covenant he made with Abraham,
the same oath he swore to Isaac,
The very statute he established with Jacob,
the eternal Covenant with Israel,**

One: Namely, "I give you the land.
Canaan is your hill-country inheritance."

When they didn't count for much,
a mere handful, and strangers at that,
Wandering from country to country,
drifting from pillar to post,
He permitted no one to abuse them.

He told kings to keep their hands off:
"Don't you dare lay a hand on my anointed,
don't hurt a hair on the heads of my prophets."
Then he called down a famine on the country,
he broke every last blade of wheat.

**ALL: But he sent a man on ahead:
Joseph, sold as a slave.**

One: They put cruel chains on his ankles,
an iron collar around his neck,

**ALL: Until God's word came to the Pharaoh,
and God confirmed his promise.**

**God sent the king to release him.
The Pharaoh set Joseph free;**

One: He appointed him master of his palace,
put him in charge of all his business
To personally instruct his princes
and train his advisors in wisdom.

**ALL: Then Israel entered Egypt,
Jacob immigrated to the Land of Ham.**

One: God gave his people lots of babies;
soon their numbers alarmed their foes.
He turned the Egyptians against his people;
they abused and cheated God's servants.

**ALL: Then he sent his servant Moses,
and Aaron, whom he also chose.**

One: They worked marvels in that spiritual wasteland,
miracles in the Land of Ham.
He spoke, "Darkness!" and it turned dark—
they couldn't see what they were doing.

**ALL: He turned all their water to blood
so that all their fish died;**

One: He made frogs swarm through the land,
even into the king's bedroom;

**ALL: He gave the word and flies swarmed,
gnats filled the air.**

One: He substituted hail for rain,
he stabbed their land with lightning;

**ALL: He wasted their vines and fig trees,
smashed their groves of trees to splinters;**

One: With a word he brought in locusts,
millions of locusts, armies of locusts;

**ALL: They consumed every blade of grass in the country
and picked the ground clean of produce;**

One: He struck down every firstborn in the land,
the first fruits of their virile powers.

**ALL: He led Israel out, their arms filled with loot,
and not one among his tribes even stumbled.**

One: Egypt was glad to have them go—
they were scared to death of them.

**ALL: God spread a cloud to keep them cool through the day
and a fire to light their way through the night;**

**They prayed and he brought quail,
filled them with the bread of heaven;**

One: He opened the rock and water poured out;
it flowed like a river through that desert—

**ALL: All because he remembered his Covenant,
his promise to Abraham, his servant.**

One: Remember this! He led his people out singing for joy;
his chosen people marched, singing their hearts out!

**ALL: He made them a gift of the country they entered,
helped them seize the wealth of the nations**

**So they could do everything he told them—
could follow his instructions to the letter.**

Hallelujah!

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING	Romans 12:9-21	Page 1764
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One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC	"Hope"	Video
	DFJ Production	

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING	Mark 6:30-44	Page 1562
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One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON—The Adventures of the Disciples: The Feeding of the Five Thousand

A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

*HYMN	"Take My Life"	GtG #697
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Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;

it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from The Confession of 1967

ALL: The church disperses to serve God wherever its members are, at work or play, in private or in the life of society. Their prayer and Bible study are part of the church's worship and theological reflection. Their witness is the church's evangelism. Their daily action in the world is the church in mission to the world. The quality of their relation with other persons is the measure of the church's fidelity. Each member is the church in the world, endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry and is responsible for the integrity of their witness in their own particular situation. They are entitled to the guidance and support of the Christian community and are subject to its advice and correction. They in turn, in their own competence, help to guide the church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Giving Thanks"

Henry Smith

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’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”

GtG #700

I'm gonna live so (live so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
I'm gonna live so (live so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna work so (work so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
I'm gonna work so (work so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna pray so (pray so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
I'm gonna pray so (pray so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

I'm gonna sing so (sing so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!)
I'm gonna sing so (sing so)
God can use me anywhere,
Lord, anytime! (anytime!)

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Marche Romaine”
Charles Gounod

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.

Church Picnic Today!

After worship today, we will head out to Kennedy Park in East Helena for our annual picnic. The Congregational Life Committee is providing fried chicken and some refreshments, and the congregation is bringing desserts and side dishes. Hope to see you there!

Retreat Registration Closes Tomorrow

Registration for our fall spiritual formation retreat at Glacier Camp closes Aug. 31. 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. If you need financial assistance to attend, please contact Pastor Emily. Scholarships are available. Come enjoy an opportunity to connect with God and one another!

POET Society Dinners Resume Sept. 2!

We will resume our POET (Presbyterians Out Eating Together) Society dinners Wednesday, Sept. 2! Meet at the Delta Hotel Restaurant, 2301 Colonial Drive, at 5:30 p.m. Contact Barb Leland for details.

Milk Campaign, Carnival Coming in September

In September, FPC will join several local churches in raising money to buy milk for the Helena Food Share Kid Packs. The packs are distributed throughout the school year to students in need, providing some food for the weekends. Last year, 41,090 packs were distributed. FPC will be gathering donations throughout the month, and Mission & Outreach invites you to “get in touch with the kid in you” on Sunday, Sept. 13, when you can buy tickets to play carnival games here, with proceeds going to the campaign. Watch for details in the September *Mustard Seed*, or visit with Carol Gneckow.

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!

Wednesday, Sept. 2 POET Society Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 6 Worship Service w/Communion 10 a.m.
Social Time 11 a.m.

Shaped by the grace of our sovereign God, we follow Jesus Christ
by growing in faith, supporting one another, and sharing
Christ's love in our community and the wider world.

Staff

Ministers—Every Member

Pastor—Rev. Emily Cowser

Director of Music & Media—Les Cramer

Organist—Ann Swisher

Treasurer—Leo Potter

Office Coordinator—Julie Young

FPC Elders

John Bryan

(Congregational Life Co-Chair)

Dianna Goodman

(Nominating Chair)

Jim Meyer

(Administration Co-Chair)

Butch Plowman

(Buildings & Grounds Chair)

Carol Gneckow

(Mission & Outreach Chair)

Max Oliver, Clerk of Session

Patti Borsberry

(Congregational Life Co-Chair)

Matthew Richards

(Administration Co-Chair)

FPC Deacons

Bonnie Anderson

Ward Stiles, Vice-Moderator

Vicky Bryan

Art Bumgardner, Moderator

Rena Bumgardner

Ria Caussyn

Carole Massman

Wanda Jewell

Alysia Ryan



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.