

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Commissioned Pastor: Dianna Goodman

Liturgist: Ria Caussyn

Organist: Ann Swisher

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Aria”

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Shout with joy to God, all the earth,

ALL: Sing the glory of His name, make his praise glorious!

One: Say to God, How awesome are your deeds!

ALL: So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.

One: All the earth bows down to you, they sing praise to you,

ALL: They sing praise to your name.

*HYMN

“Gather Us In”

GtG #401

Here in this place
the new light is streaming;
now is the darkness
vanished away;

See in this space our fears
and our dreamings
brought here to you
in the light of this day.

Gather us in,
the lost and forsaken;
gather us in,
the blind and the lame;

Call to us now,

and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound
of our name.

We are the young;
our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn
for your face.

We have been sung
throughout all of history,
called to be light
to the whole human race.

Gather us in,
the rich and the haughty;
gather us in,
the proud and the strong;

Give us a heart,
so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage
to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine
and the water;
here we will take the bread
of new birth.

Here you shall call your sons
and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt
for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine

of compassion;
give us to eat the bread
that is you;

Nourish us well,
and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy
and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark
of buildings confining,
not in some heaven,
light years away:

Here in this place
the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom,
and now is the day.

Gather us in
and hold us forever;
gather us in
and make us your own;

Gather us in,
all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh
and our bone.

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

ALL: Almighty God, you poured your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears, and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the force of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace,

Speak the good news of your love, or live as a people made one in Christ. Have mercy on us O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit, and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *(a moment of silent prayer)*

***DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Through Christ, God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us for the forgiveness of sins. 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

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Page 1188

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 4:10-11

Page 1891

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Sing, O Heavens”

Based on Isaiah 49:13, by Joseph Martin

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:16-20

Page 1550

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“God Chooses Imperfect People”

RESPONSIVE READING

Ephesians 2:10

Page 1819

***HYMN**

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

GtG #726

(vs. 1, 4, 5)

"Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known;
will you let my life be grown in you
and you in me?"

"Will you love the 'you' you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch
and sound in you and you in me?"

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where your
love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Thomas Aquinas (c.1225-1274)

ALL: Give me O Lord a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downward; give me an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give me an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow on me also, O Lord my God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you,

**wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*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.*

OFFERTORY

“Allegretto”

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

***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 & LORD’S PRAYER

***HYMN**

“Here I Am, Lord”

GtG #69

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling
in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling
in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord.
Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling
in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Allegro Maestoso”
Flor Peeters

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.

Thank You, Dianna

Thank you to Commissioned Pastor Dianna Goodman for leading us in worship today while Pastor Emily is on vacation. If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care while Pastor Emily is gone, you may contact Dianna, Butch Plowman, or your shepherd. Or you may call the church office at 406-442-4775, and Julie will forward your request to the appropriate contact person. Pastor Emily will preach next Sunday and Sunday, Sept. 28, and be back in the office Sept. 29.

Friday Bible Study Resumes

The Friday Bible Study resumes this week, meeting at noon on Sept. 19. All are welcome, and you can join in any time. For more information, visit with study leader John Coefield.

McNay Memorial Service Saturday, Sept. 20

A memorial service for FPC member David McNay will be held here Saturday, Sept. 20, at 11 a.m. Retired Pastor Janet Potter will officiate. A lunch will be served upstairs after the service. David passed away Aug. 11.

Worship Service Outdoors next Sunday

We will gather for worship outdoors next Sunday, Sept. 21 (weather permitting!) The service will not be livestreamed that day.

We are the Peacemakers

Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering are helping our neighbors in need — those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe. Our neighbors need us. Please give what you can to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. *Thank you!*

God's Bounty Available

Sharing God's Bounty is back! This is the opportunity to share some of the wonderful things God has blessed us with. Please feel free to bring things and also free to take from the Sharing God's Bounty table. Remember, it is not just produce to eat, but any of the many things that God has shared with you. Visit with Jim Meyer for more information.

You're Invited!

Tuesday, Sept. 16	Session 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 17	Choir Rehearsal 2 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 19	Friday Bible Study 12/noon Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 20	David McNay Memorial Service 11 a.m.
Sunday, Sept. 21	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 & Synergos 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



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Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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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.