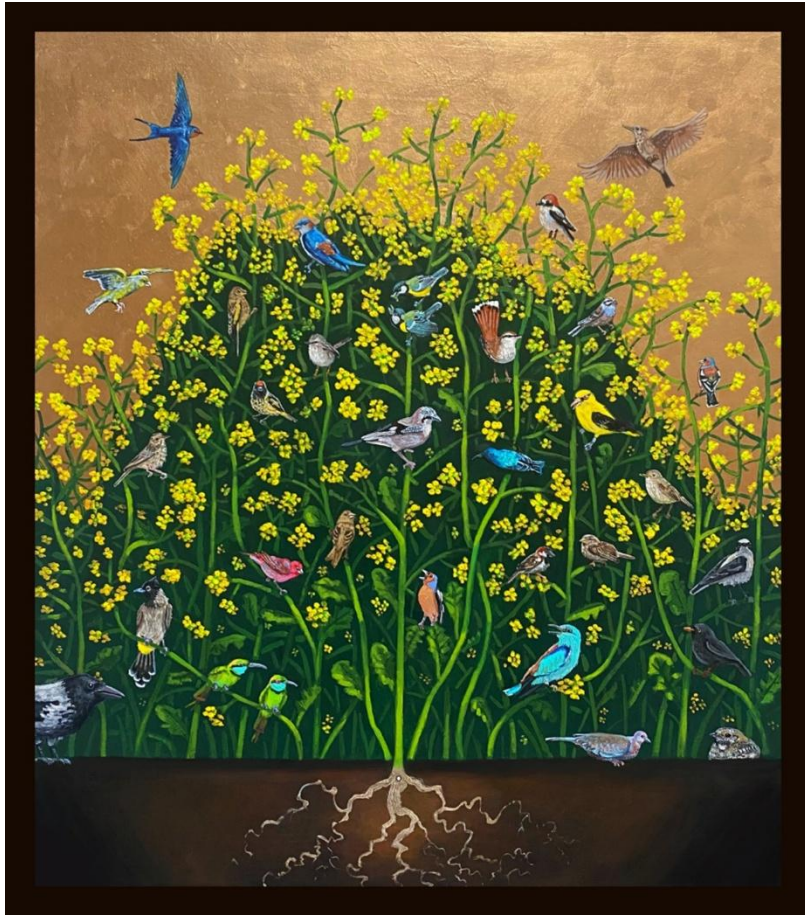


*Growing in Faith, Supporting One Another,
and Sharing Christ's Love*



The Parable of the Mustard Seed by Kelly Latimore

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

535 North Ewing Street

Helena, MT 59601

Sunday, September 20, 2026 ~ 10 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Joy Edgar

Organist: Ann Swisher

“Both believers and their children are included in God’s covenant love. The baptism of believers witnesses to the truth that God’s gift of grace calls for our grateful response. The baptism of our young children witnesses to the truth that God claims people in love even before they are able to respond in faith. These two forms of witness are one and the same Sacrament.”

- The PC(USA) *Book of Order*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Festival Prelude”

Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726)

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

“Earth and All Stars!”

GtG #26

Earth and all stars!
Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain!

Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We too sing praises
with a new song!

Trumpet and pipes!
Loud clashing cymbals!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre!

Loud humming cellos!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We too sing praises
with a new song!

Engines and steel!
Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams!

Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We too sing praises
with a new song!

Knowledge and truth!
Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Daughter and son!

Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
God has done marvelous things.
We too sing praises
with a new song!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: You gave us commandments, God of love, because you know the hardness of our hearts. You have created us to live in community, and still we oppress others and separate ourselves from each other and from you. Jesus loved the children, but there are still children in the world who live in hunger or fear, rejected and unloved. Forgive us, and call us to faithfulness. Bind all your children together as sisters and brothers, and nurture us with your love and forgiveness, that we might share what we have been given, and receive your kingdom with the wonder and gratitude of children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. *(a moment of silent confession)*

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs." Seeing our repentant hearts,

Jesus embraces us in grace and comforts us with mercy. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

ALL: We are children of 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 16:1-36

Page 112

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING

Psalms 105

Read Responsively

(Select verses from the paraphrase in *Psalms for Praying* by Nan Merrill)

One: O Give thanks to the Beloved.

ALL: And open your hearts to Love.

One: Awaken! Listen in silence for the Voice of the Counselor.

**ALL: Sing praises with a glad heart
and give witness to the truth with your lives!**

One: Glory in the radiance of the Beloved;

ALL: Let the hearts of those who call upon You rejoice!

One: Seek the One who is Life, your strength,

ALL: walk harmoniously in Love's Presence!

One: Remember that you are not alone,

ALL: for through Love doubt and fear are released;

One: O people of the earth,

ever bear in mind the unity of diversity in the Divine Plan!

**ALL: You are the Promise of our wholeness,
You await our readiness to choose Life.**

One: Your covenant of Love stands firm through all ages;

ALL: You forgive us when we stray far from Home.

One: Help us to learn to trust You,
to untangle the webs of illusion that we have made.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING Philippians 1:12-30

Page 1826

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM “Creation Brings Her Harvest”
by Lloyd Larson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING Mark 10:13-16

Page 1570

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON—Adventures of the Disciples: Jesus Blesses Little Children

A TIME OF QUIET REFLECTION

*HYMN “Jesus Loves Me!”

GtG #188

Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong.
They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! This I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, "Let them come to me."

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Adapted from The Westminster Confession of Faith*

ALL: All those that are justified, God vouchsafeth, in and for God's only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption: by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of the children of God; have God's name put upon them; receive the Spirit of adoption; have access to the throne of grace with boldness; are enabled to cry, Abba, Father; are pitied, protected, provided for, and chastened by God as by a father; yet never cast off, but sealed to the day of redemption, and inherit the promises, as heirs of everlasting salvation.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Praeludium in Bb Major"

Johann L. Krebs (1713-1780)

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

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

GtG #547

“Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you,
you are my own.

In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own.”

“Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much
I love you,
what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear
Son’s story;
here you touched him,
saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven,

at peace and pure.”

“Go, my children,
fed and nourished,
closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.

Here my Spirit’s power filled you;
here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children,
fed and nourished,
joyful and free.”

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Psalm 19”
Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

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.

Announcements

Milk Campaign Carnival Returns!

We had so much fun at the Milk Campaign Carnival last Sunday, we decided to bring it back again today! And we've added new games! Tickets are \$1, cash or check. The carnival is part of a multi-church campaign to buy milk for the Helena Food Share Kid Packs. The packs are distributed throughout the school year to students in need. Last year, 41,090 packs were distributed. FPC will be gathering donations through Sept. 27. Find details in the *Mustard Seed*, or visit with Carol Gneckow.

Friday Bible Study Resumes

The Friday Bible Study returns September 25, meeting at 12/noon at the church. John Coefield leads this study which will start with the book of Romans. Everyone is welcome, and you can join any time. Visit with John for details.

Pow Wow Friday at the Fairgrounds

The Congregational Life Committee invites you to attend the 27th Annual Last Chance Community Pow Wow Friday, Sept. 25, at 6 p.m., at the Fairgrounds. Admission is free. The Pow Wow is not an FPC event, but members are encouraged to attend for an educational and fun time – and Indian Tacos, too! Visit with John Bryan or Patti Borsberry for details.

Special Congregational Meeting Oct. 11

Session has called a special congregational meeting on Oct. 11, 2026, in the sanctuary following the 10:00am worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. If you would like to join the meeting via Zoom, please use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85185156598?pwd=3b3IBlyYgWd0XSbWapNGnLSdQPZ6xA.1>. Please join us after worship Oct. 11 for this important meeting.

Lanham Memorial Service Sept. 23 at Glacier Camp

The memorial service for the Rev. Tim Lanham, former Glacier Camp director, will be held at Glacier Camp on Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 3 p.m., followed by a community dinner. If you want to spend the night, the camp is charging \$100 per person for room and board. If you wish to book a room for the night please email info@glaciercamp.org or call 406-844-2114.

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!

- Tuesday, Sept. 22** Admin Committee 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 23** Choir Rehearsal 2 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 25** Friday Bible Study 12/noon
Pow Wow at the Fairgrounds 6 p.m.
- Sunday, Sept. 27** Worship Service 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)

Patti Borsberry

(Congregational Life Co-Chair)

Matthew Richards

(Administration Co-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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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.