

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Janet Potter

Liturgist: Patti Borsberry

Organist: Ann Swisher

*Please meditate silently, or listen to the prelude
as you prepare your heart for worship.*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Aria”

Paul Manz (1919-2009)

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path where sinners tread.

ALL: Happy are those whose delight is in the Lord, and who meditate on the word of God both night and day.

One: They are like trees planted by streams of water.

ALL: O Lord, we are here today to seek your delight, that we might be rooted in your wisdom and will.

One: Let us worship God!

*GATHERING 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

CONFESSION

ALL: We confess how much we are like those first disciples of Jesus, Wisdom from on high. Our cravings for more and more toss us about like leaves in the fall winds. We boast of our great wisdom, yet do not understand your ways of peace and gentleness. We do not plant ourselves in your hope and grace, and so reap harvests of disorder and conflict. Draw near to us, Gracious God, and forgive us.

Draw us into your tender arms, and teach us peace, gentleness, the willingness to put the other first, the wisdom to serve instead of seize, so we might bring forth a harvest of righteousness, justice, and peace in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *(moment of silent confession)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

ONE: This is the wisdom from above: God plants in us the forgiveness and healing we need, so we might share the good harvest of joy and mercy with everyone we meet.

ALL: Bathed in the living waters, fed by the Bread of life, we are given new life and hope. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Rise Up Early in the Morning”
John A. Ray & Susan Naylor Callaway

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 54

Page 891

James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

Page 1883

SERMON

“True Greatness”

SERMON SCRIPTURE

Mark 9:30-37

Page 1569

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Brief Statement of Faith

ALL: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching

by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

RESPONSE HYMN

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

Children of the heav’nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e’er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Tho’ He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ALL: We thank you for the wealth you shower on us daily, O Lord, and we witness the marvelous goodness that comes from you. Transform these gifts into signs of welcome for all who are touched by their use. Transform us into people who bless others throughout each day, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

UNISON LORD'S PRAYER

SENDING HYMN

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

GtG #716

God, whose giving knows
no ending,
from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
costly cross,
grave's shattered door:

Gifted by you, we turn to you,
offering up ourselves in praise;

thankful song shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ,
your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.

Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone.
Born with talents,
make us servants
fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through powers
your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.

Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ's ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Allegro Maestoso”
Flor Peeters

Announcements

Welcome!

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us today! 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 and pass it to your neighbor. Join us for refreshments & conversation after the service.

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. on Sunday mornings. The doors are unlocked again between 11 a.m. and noon.

Let's Talk: Synergos! today after worship.

Pastor Janet and the PNC will explain the pastor residency program offered by Omaha Seminary Foundation for churches in the Rocky Mountain Synod. Details are in the September “Mustard Seed.”

Fifth Sunday Potluck next Sunday, Sept. 29

Plan to attend the Fifth Sunday Potluck on Sunday, Sept. 29, after the worship service. Bring a potluck item of your choice and meet upstairs in Richardson Hall.

Friday Bible Study returns Oct. 4 at noon

Friday noon group will start our study of the book of Revelation on Oct. 4. All are welcome!

Coming Oct 6—Special Congregational Meeting

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, October 6, 2024 immediately after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to approve changes to the by-laws.

You're Invited!

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|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, Sept. 25 | Choir Rehearsal 2 p.m. |
| Friday, Sept. 27 | Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m. |
| Sunday, Sept. 29 | Worship 10 a.m.
Potluck 11 a.m. |

Staff

Ministers—Every Member

Organist—Ann Swisher

Pastor—Rev. Janet Potter

Treasurer—Leo Potter

Director of Music & Media—Les Cramer

Office Coordinator—Julie Young

FPC Elders

Sheryl Eriksen

(Fellowship chair)

Patti Borsberry

(Worship co-chair)

Linda Bench

(Nominating chair)

Jim Meyer

(Administration chair)

Jeff Chaffee

(Personnel chair)

John Bryan

Butch Plowman

(Building & Grounds chair)

Barb Leland

(Worship co-chair)

Karen Witte

(Mission chair)

John Gneckow, Clerk of Session

FPC Deacons

Vicky Bryan

BJ Burns (Moderator)

Bonnie Anderson

Merle Korizek

Kathy Chambers

Ward Stiles (Vice-mod.)

Carole Massman

Jill Cook

Darlene McNay



Church Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Pastor Janet Potter

Phone: 406-442-4775

Email: pastor@fpchelena.org

Weekly Sermon on HCTV Cable Channel 189, Wednesdays 6 p.m. & Saturdays 9 a.m.