

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: John Warren

Organist: Ann Swisher

“‘Spiritual practice’ is a phrase that means what it says. Madeline L’Engle once likened spiritual practice to piano etudes: You do not necessarily enjoy the etudes—you want to skip right ahead to the sonatas and concerto—but if you don’t work through the etudes you will arrive at the sonatas and not know what to do. So, too, with the spiritual life. It’s not all about the mountaintops. Mostly it’s about training so that you’ll know the mountaintop for what it is when you get there.”

-Lauren Winner, *Mudhouse Sabbath*

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Fantasia”

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God alone does great wonders and created our world.

ALL: God’s love endures forever!

One: God led God’s people through the wilderness and remembers us in our difficulties.

ALL: God’s love endures forever!

One: Give thanks to God, for God is good.

ALL: God’s love endures forever!

Let us worship God together.

*HYMN

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

GtG #250

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!

In the cold and snow of winter
there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,

something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.

From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.

In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name. Amen. *(a moment of silent confession)*

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Christ gave his life to save us from the wrath of God. Therefore, since we are

justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Trust the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ our sins 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.

PSALM READING

Psalm 116

(Read responsively)

One: I love the Lord because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.

**ALL: Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

One: The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

**ALL: Then I called on the name of the Lord,
“O Lord, I pray, save my life!”**

One: Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is merciful.

**ALL: The Lord protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.**

One: Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

**ALL: For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.**

One: I walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.

ALL: I kept my faith, even when I said,

“I am greatly afflicted”;
I said in my consternation,
“Everyone is a liar.”

One: What shall I return to the Lord
for all his bounty to me?

ALL: I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord;
I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

One: Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful ones.

O Lord, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.

ALL: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.

One: I will pay my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 5:1-11

Page 1752

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 9:35—10:15

Page 1510

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

"Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave

With each new day,
when morning lifts the veil,
we own thy mercies, Lord,
which never fail.

God of the past,
our times are in thy hand.
With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true
promised land.
Be thou our guide.

With thee to bless,
the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes
into sight.

God of the coming years,
through paths unknown
we follow thee.
When we are strong, Lord,
leave us not alone.
Our refuge be.

Be thou for us
in life our daily bread,
our heart's true home
when all our years have sped.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

ALL: We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor

height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Gigue"

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

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

"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

GtG #687

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,

or earth received its frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch
that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

Our God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard
while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Hornpipe from the Water Music”
G.F. Handel

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!

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.