

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Ria Caussyn

Organist: Ann Swisher

*"In the unceasing ebb and flow of justice and oppression we must all dig channels as best we may, that at the propitious moment somewhat of the swelling tide may be conducted to the barren places of life."*

-Jane Addams, American sociologist and activist

*\*Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

"The Baptism of Christ"

Derek Healey (b. 1936)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning, at creation, the Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep.

**ALL: In the waters of the flood, God cleansed the earth and humankind.**

One: God caused the waters to part so that Israel could cross from slavery to liberation.

**ALL: God formed Jesus in the waters of Mary's womb.**

One: Jesus taught us how to live by washing his disciples' feet in water.

**ALL: Drinking water from a well, Jesus met a Samaritan woman, the first person to recognize that he was the Christ.**

One: Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, the Christ.

**ALL: Let us worship God together.**

\*HYMN

"Baptized in Water"

GtG #482

Baptized in water,  
sealed by the Spirit,  
cleansed by the blood  
of Christ our King;

Heirs of salvation,  
trusting the promise,  
faithfully now God's praises

we sing.

Baptized in water,  
sealed by the Spirit,  
dead in the tomb  
with Christ our King;

One with his rising,  
freed and forgiven,  
thankfully now God's praises  
we sing.

Baptized in water,  
sealed by the Spirit,  
marked with the sign  
of Christ our King;

Born of the Spirit,  
we are God's children;  
joyfully now God's praises  
we sing.

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**ALL: God of all glory, you look from heaven and see us as we are – not worthy to kneel at your feet, not ready to welcome your way. Forgive us, gracious God. In Christ, stoop down to save us; loosen the ties that bind us to sin and set us free to love and serve you; in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*(a moment of silent confession)*

\*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news of the gospel: As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so God says to each of us: You are my beloved child, and with you I am well-pleased. In 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.

PSALM READING

Psalm 29

Page 866

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10:34-43

Page 1710

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:13-17

Page 1499

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!**

CHOIR ANTHEM

"All the Praise of a Lifetime"

John Elliot, Phill McHugh; choral arr. Don Hart

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

Page 1124

One: The Word of the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

\*HYMN

"Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"

GtG #757

Today we all are called to be  
disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free,  
make plowshare out of sword,

To feed the hungry,  
quench their thirst,

make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor  
and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.

God made the world  
and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.

But we are vain and sadly proud;  
we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field  
and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.

For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God  
act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints  
have trod  
till all have seen and heard.

As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord



go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love  
and joy and peace.

May the God of justice  
speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope  
to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

\*CHARGE

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Recessional”  
Robert J. Hughes

## **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.

### **Help Undecorate the Church Today**

Stay after the service today to help take down the holiday decorations. We'll grab cookies and coffee, and share some good fellowship!

## Hymn Requests

If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to be sung in worship, please email Pastor Emily at [pastor@fpchelena.org](mailto:pastor@fpchelena.org), and she will be sure to incorporate it into a future worship service when it connects with the themes of our Scripture readings.

## Shirt Orders Due by Sunday, Jan. 18

Orders for an FPC shirt are due next Sunday, January 18. You have two options:

1. Take your own solid colored shirt — any length sleeve -- (black, grey or beige) to Barb Leland or to the Church office with \$20.
2. Choose black, grey or beige for your short-sleeve shirt and \$30 and Barb will buy your shirt. Any money left over will go into the Friendship Committee donation jar. Choose: sm, med, lg, xl, xxl.

The goal will be to wear our shirts to church on the Congregational Meeting Day, February 8th.

## Warm Hearts Drive

The Warm Hearts drive has begun and will conclude at the end of January, to be gifted on Valentine's Day. The drive collects new blankets and towels. Your donations will serve Family Promise, God's Love, Good Samaritan Ministries, Helena Community Offender Reentry Program, Rocky Mountain Development Center, The Friendship Center, and YWCA. Warm Hearts is an ecumenical ministry of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Associates of Helena "to witness and share the mission of Jesus who calls us to love God with our whole hearts and love our neighbor even as God loves us."

## Annual Meeting Sunday, Feb. 8

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be Sunday, February 8, after the worship service. Committee annual reports are due in the church office by January 19.

## You're Invited!

<b>Monday, Jan. 12</b>	Personnel Committee 10 a.m. Christian Education Committee 11 a.m. Mission Committee 1 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, Jan. 13</b>	Worship Committee 10 a.m. Special Session 1 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, Jan. 14</b>	Building & Grounds Committee 10 a.m. Friendship Committee 1 p.m. Choir 2 p.m. Admin Committee 4 p.m.
<b>Friday, Jan. 16</b>	Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, Jan. 18</b>	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)

**Butch Plowman**  
(Building & Grounds Chair)

**Barb Leland**  
(Friendship Chair)

**Carol Gneckow**  
(Mission & Outreach Chair)

**John Gneckow**, Clerk of Session

## FPC Deacons

BJ Burns

Bonnie Anderson

Vicky Bryan

Kathy Chambers

Ward Stiles, Vice-Moderator

Art Bumgardner, Moderator

Jill Cook

Rena Bumgardner

Ria Caussyn

Carole Massman



### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)**

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**Pastor Emily Cowser**

**Phone:** 406-442-4775 **Email:** [pastor@fpchelena.org](mailto:pastor@fpchelena.org)

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