

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pulpit Supply: Jeff Buscher

Liturgist: Dianna Goodman

Organist: Ann Swisher

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Adapted from Psalm 68

One: Let the righteous be joyful! Let them rejoice before God.

ALL: Let us all be jubilant with joy!

One: Sing to God, all peoples of the world. Sing praises to God most high.

ALL: From the sanctuary of heaven, God gives life and renews the face of the earth.

One: Let the righteous be joyful! Let them rejoice before God.

ALL: Let us all be jubilant with joy!

*HYMN

“Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!”

GtG #239

Good Christians all,
rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our King!

To all the world glad news
we bring:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord of life is risen today!

Death's mighty stone
is rolled away.

Let all the earth rejoice and say:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise we in songs of victory

that love, that life
which cannot die,

and sing with hearts uplifted high:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your name we bless, O risen Lord,

and sing today with one accord

the life laid down, the life restored:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. *(A moment of silent confession)*

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: Our righteousness is found in Christ alone, a gift of God by faith. Beloved people of God, believe the good news: through the grace 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Come Flood This Heart of Mine”
Lyrics, Herb Frombach; Music, David Lantz III

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL READING

Mark 12:28-34

Page 1575

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Faith & Community”

*HYMN

“Though I May Speak”

GtG #693

Though I may speak with bravest
fire, and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love,
my words are vain,
as sounding brass,
and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon
turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come,
our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

From the PC(USA)'s Brief Statement of Faith

ALL: In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,

praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!" With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: Let us pray for the needs of the church, the whole human family, and all the world, saying:

ALL: Hear our prayer.

One: That churches of all traditions may discover their unity in Christ and exercise their gifts in service of all, we pray to you, O God:

ALL: Hear our prayer.

One: That the earth may be freed from war, famine, and disease, and the air, soil, and waters cleansed of poison, we pray to you, O God:

ALL: Hear our prayer.

One: That those who govern and maintain peace in every land may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands, we pray to you, O God:

ALL: Hear our prayer.

One: That you will strengthen this nation to pursue just priorities so that the races may be reconciled; the young, educated; and the old, cared for; the hungry, filled; and the homeless, housed; and the sick, comforted and healed, we pray to you, O God:

ALL: Hear our prayer.

One: That you will preserve all who live and work in Helena in peace and safety, we pray to you, O God:

ALL: Hear our prayer.

One: That you will comfort and empower those who face any difficulty or trial: the sick, the disabled, the poor, the oppressed, those who grieve and those in prison, we pray to you, O God:

ALL: Hear our prayer.

One: That you will accept our thanksgiving for all faithful servants of Christ now at rest, who, with us, await a new heaven and a new earth, your everlasting kingdom, we pray to you, O God:

ALL: Hear our prayer.

One: Merciful God, as a potter fashions a vessel from humble clay, you form us

into a new creation. Shape us, day by day, through the cross of Christ your Son, until we pray as continually as we breathe and all our acts are prayer; through Jesus Christ and in the mystery of the Holy Spirit, we pray.

ALL: Amen.

One: Let us join together in the prayer that Jesus taught:

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth,

As it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

The power, and the glory,

For ever and ever.

Amen.

THE OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

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

“This Is My Song”

GtG #340

This is my song,
O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar
and mine.

This is my home, the country
where my heart is;

Here are my hopes, my dreams,
my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands
are beating
with hopes and dreams as true
and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer
than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf
and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too,
and clover,

And skies are everywhere
as blue as mine.

So hear my song,
O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land
and for mine.

This is my prayer,
O Lord of all earth's kingdoms:

thy kingdom come;
on earth thy will be done.
Let Christ be lifted up
till all shall serve him,

And hearts united learn
to live as one.

So hear my prayer,
O God of all the nations:
myself I give thee;
let thy will be done.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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!

Pastoral Care in May

Thank you to those filling in this week while Pastor Emily is on vacation: Jeff Buscher, United Way Community Impact Coordinator, for preaching today and Janet Potter for being available for emergency pastoral care through May 18. Pastoral Emily returns May 19.

Lost Soles Walk & Lunch Today

Join us for a Lost Soles Walk today, 11:45am, at Prickly Pear Park in East Helena. The walk will be about one mile. Lunch following the walk will be at 1pm at Smith's Bar and Restaurant on

Main Street in East Helena. If you don't want to walk, but want to eat lunch, meet us at Smith's.

Girls Thrive & Intermountain Tour Updates

Yes, there are 4 sign-up sheet opportunities for you!

First - Girl Thrive - Sort Clothing, Monday, May 18 from 12:00-2:00 PM. Right here at FPC at Girls Thrive.

Second - Girls Thrive - Deliver Clothing, Tuesday, May 19, 2:45 PM to Bryant Elementary. Please meet at Girls Thrive at FPC.

Third - Girls Thrive - Deliver Clothing, Wednesday, May 20, 2:45 PM to Broadwater Elementary. Please meet at Girls Thrive at FPC.

Fourth - Tour Intermountain Children's Home, Friday, May 29, 10:00-11:30 AM. Meet on Campus.

Thank you! Questions? Call Carol Gneckow.

Fall Spiritual Formation Retreat

Pastor Emily will be facilitating a fall retreat focused on the theme of prayer. Together, we will explore what prayer means, our struggles with prayer, and a variety of ways to pray. The retreat is tentatively planned for September 10th-12th at the beautiful Glacier Camp on Flathead Lake. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor Emily know, so that she can begin to gauge the size of our group.

Fifth Sunday Potluck May 31

Another "Fifth Sunday Potluck" is coming up May 31, following the Church service. Bring an item to share and meet your Church friends in Richardson Hall for a fun time of food and fellowship. Three people will tell their stories. Who will they be? Come and find out!

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!

Monday, May 18	Helping Girls Thrive 12:00-2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 19	Session 1 p.m. Girls Thrive Delivery 2:45 p.m.
Wednesday, May 20	Choir 2 p.m. Girls Thrive Delivery 2:45 p.m. Bell Choir 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, May 21	<i>Holy Spirit</i> Bible Study 12/noon

Friday, May 22 Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 24 Worship Service 10 a.m.
Day of Pentecost Social Time 11 a.m.

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

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
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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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.