

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Pastor: Rev. Emily Cowser

Liturgist: Pearle Plowman

Pianist: Merle Korizek

“When you say, ‘The Lord is my shepherd,’ no proper grounds are left for you to trust in yourself.”

-Augustine, Bishop of Hippo and foundational theologian and philosopher (354-430)

**Please stand if you are able*

PRELUDE

“Just As I Am, Without One Plea”

William Bradbury

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters,

ALL: and gives us refreshment of soul.

One: Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go,

ALL: so that the name of God will be glorified.

One: Though all manner of evil befalls us, we will not be afraid,

ALL: for the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.

One: We are never away from the love and mercy of the Lord,

ALL: and we shall be with the Lord for ever and ever.

One: Let us worship our Shepherd 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: Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." People of God, the good shepherd has laid down his life for us so

that we may have life. 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 2:42-47

Page 1694

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Peter 2:18-25

Page 1889

Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he

made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

John 10:1-18

Page 1666

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it

down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

One: The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Jesus, Be With Us”

Video

By Rev. Dr. David Gambrell, Presbytery of Atlanta

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM READING

Psalm 23

Page 862

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil,

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me

in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord

my whole life long.

One: The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

*HYMN

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”

GtG #803

My shepherd will supply my need;

Jehovah is his name.

In pastures fresh he makes

me feed,

beside the living stream.

He brings my wandering spirit back
when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake,
in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through
the shades of death
your presence is my stay;
one word of your
supporting breath
drives all my fears away.

Your hand, in sight of all my foes,
does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows;
your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode,
and all my work be praise.

There would I find a settled rest,
while others go and come;
no more a stranger, or a guest,
but like a child at home.

***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 "God, Thy Goodness Never Ends"

Ludvig Van Beethoven

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

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

GtG #802

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant
pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length
of days
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing
thy praise
within thy house forever.

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“God So Loved The World”
John Stainer

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.

POET Society Dinner Wednesday, May 6

Our next POET Society dinner will be Wednesday, May 6, at 5:30pm, at the Grub Stake. Fun, games, conversation and good food. Email Barb if you wish to attend. This will be the final POET dinner of the season; we will resume in September.

Lost Soles Walk & Lunch Sunday, May 17

Join us for a Lost Soles Walk May 17, 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.

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.

You're Invited!

Wednesday, April 29	Choir 2 p.m. Bell Choir 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 30	<i>Holy Spirit</i> Bible Study 12/Noon
Friday, May 1	Friday Bible Study 12/Noon Hand & Foot Cards 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, May 3	Worship Service with Communion 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



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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.