

Spreading the Good News of Christ Through Our Love, Words, and Actions

“Hearts”



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**

**535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601**

**February 17, 2021
Ash Wednesday**

GATHERING

INVITATION TO SLOW DOWN / TO CALMNESS

It is evening time. In biblical times we would all be securely in our homes, the day would be over until tomorrow's light illuminated the horizon.

In our world of electric lights, non-stop entertainment available via cable and the Internet, we extend our days, staying busy until late, maybe just minutes before slipping into bed.

But, now, settle down. Clam our breathing. Eliminate distractions. Let the ever-present sense of busyness slide away.

Let us become present to our surroundings. Let us become present to what is going on within us. And, let us be present to the Holy Spirit surrounding us. Let us be present to the quiet voice of God speaking.

Let us be calm, but present; calm, but alert to what God is working in our midst at this very moment.

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

HYMN

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

American Folk Hymn

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dianna Goodman, Liturgist

READINGS:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-14

Joel 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy hill.

Let all who live in the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming.

It is close at hand—
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and blackness.

Like dawn spreading across the mountains
a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was of old
nor ever will be in ages to come.

Joel 2:12 “Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

Joel 2:13 Rend your heart
and not your garments.

Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.

Joel 2:14 Who knows? He may turn and have pity
and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings
for the LORD your God.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Matt. 6:1 “Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Matt. 6:2 “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matt. 6:5 “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matt. 6:16 “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matt. 6:19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

SERMON

“Hearts”

Rev. Scott Wipperman

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND COMMUNION

BLESSINGS FOR AN UNHURRIED LIFE

Welcome, Guests!

Thank you for choosing to worship with us. We pray for all of us a spiritually satisfying and challenging encounter with the Living Christ. If you would like to know more about the people and programs of this church, be in touch with our pastor, Rev. Wipperman, 442-4775, visit our website: www.fpchelena.org, or take a copy of our monthly church newsletter, The Mustard Seed. If possible, join us again for our next worship service!

STAFF

Ministers	Every Member
Pastor	Rev. Scott Wipperman
CLP of Pastoral Care	Arlyn "Butch" Plowman
Director of Christian Education	Ashley Burke
Director of Music and Media	Les Cramer
Administrative Assistant	Bruce A. Luke
Accounting Services	Atwood Accounting
Keyboardist	Liz Adler
Nursery Care Attendant	

ELDERS

DEACONS

John Coefield - 2021	Julie Chaffee - 2021
Joe Steffens - 2021	Candace Coefield - 2021
John Warren - 2021	Corky Lord - 2021
Mary Wright - 2021	Jim & Charlotte Meyer - 2021
Linda Bench - 2022	Rena Bumgardner - 2022
Kathy Chambers - 2022	Louise Cramer - 2022
Karen Witte - 2022	Elaine Gingery - 2022
Sheryl Eriksen - 2022	Arlyn "Butch" Plowman - 2022
Mary Craigle - 2023	Patti Borsberry - 2023
Carol Gneckow - 2023	Art Bumgardner - 2023
Rose Leavitt - 2023	BJ Burns - 2023
Carol Stebbins - 2023	Pearle Plowman - 2023
Elaine Gingery, Clerk	

DEACONS-ON-CALL

Deacon-on-Call: Jim & Charlotte Meyer 449-3030

WILLIS CRUSE PROJECT

Date: February 21st. 1 – 2:30. In case the weather is bad (imagine that in Montana!) our alternate plan will be: same procedure as above. A committee member will come out from the church foyer and receive your items. Please pull up close to the stairs. **Dates: Feb. 23 and 25, 1:15 – 2:30.** These days are **only** if we cannot hold the event on Sunday. (major snow storm and/or temperature below zero)

If You Need to Come Into the Church...

We are in Phase 2 of the “Reopening of the Big Sky” state plan. If you do need to come into the church we ask that you wear a mask for everyone’s protection. If you do not have a mask there is a limited supply on the mantel of the fireplace just inside the door.

**First Presbyterian Church of Helena
535 North Ewing Street
Helena, MT 59601**

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM
Church Office: (406) 442-4775**

**E-mail: admin@fpchelena.org
Website: www.fpchelena.org**