

# FPC Interactive Worship Bulletin for November 22, 2020

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PARISH ASSOCIATES: REV. JANET MALONE, BOB SCHURR

## PRELUDE *Emma Thackston*

### WELCOME *Dan Cravy*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome to worship with First Presbyterian Church of Missoula.

We're grateful you are 'here' today, whether in sanctuary or living room. If you're visiting with us, you are welcome here. (Please do share your contact information with us so we might reach out to connect or to contact if needed for health reasons. There are welcome cards on the tables in the narthex.) For all, there are large print bulletins, and printed First Words with FPC announcements in the narthex. Please take a 'blessing bag' with you. It's full of snacks and warm socks and such to be a sign of tangible blessing to someone you may meet asking for some help.

You have all no doubt seen reports of how dramatically Covid infections are rising in Montana and elsewhere. And we are all so fatigued by it and craving connection. We believe the Church of Jesus Christ to be an essential bearer of light and hope in the darkness of this winter. So in order for folks to continue to feel comfortable gathering for worship, we do ask that you greet one another with a quick elbow bump then move to maintain one grizzly bear of distance from one another. Our Covid bear is six feet long. Also, as a demonstration of our care for one another and for our city, we ask that you wear cloth face coverings above nose throughout worship - except when speaking up front.

In a most challenging year, this month and this week mark a whole season of thanksgiving for us. We've sent you a gratitude calendar as an invitation to the spiritual discipline of counting blessings each day with those in your home. If you'd like a copy to take with you, they will be on the tables in the narthex.

Lastly, this Wednesday evening, we will be 'gathering' by Zoom at 7pm to see one another's faces and share thanksgivings. We'll re-send you the Zoom link and phone number this week. We hope you'll join us.

Let us now prepare our hearts to worship God!

### CALL TO WORSHIP *Tammi Allison*

Give thanks to God!

**We thank God for joy, for laughter,  
for abundant blessings of every kind.**

Give thanks to God  
at all times and for everything!

**We thank God, when we can and as we can,  
for struggles, for solitude, for fears.**

Give thanks to God  
at all times and for everything  
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**We thank God that, in Christ,  
our joys as well as our pain,  
our losses as well as our laughter,  
are in God's heart and hands.**

### OPENING PRAYER *Tammi Allison*

Faithful God,

we come into Your presence with thanksgiving,  
deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness You have shown toward us, Your people.  
When we call out to You, You answer.

When we are exhausted, You give us the strength to go on. When we find ourselves in trouble,

## *FPC Prayer List*

### ONGOING SUPPORT

Victor Schlimgen, Mary Barnett, Roy Miller,  
Nancy and John MacDonald

### HEALTH AND HEALING

Cecelia Ambriz,, Steve Hasterlick,, Kelly Nicholson,  
Jason Kirschner, Bob Maitland, Bob Bricker,  
Irene Smith,  
Allen Surber, Jack Freer,  
Michaela (Boyette) Fetzer,  
Jan Everett

### CONDOLENCES

Family and friends of Peg McDaniel, Family and friends of Jacque Monroe,  
Friends and Family of Lou and Jerry Power

You are there, standing beside us.  
 And so we come before You gratitude and praise,  
 offering You the worship of our hearts and lives.  
 Open our eyes to see and know You here among us;  
 open our ears to recognize Your voice.  
 And then send us out from here,  
 to live and work in the world as Your faithful disciples.  
 In the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.  
 Amen.

**OPENING SONG "All Creatures of our God and King"**

All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us  
 Thou rush - ing wind that art so strong, Ye clouds that sail in heav'n a -  
 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship Him in hum - ble -

5  
 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Thou burn - ing sun with gold - en beam,  
 long: O - praise Him, al - le - lu - ia! Thou ris - ing morn, in praise re - joice,  
 ness: O - praise Him, al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praisethe Son,

10  
 Thou sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam,  
 Ye lights of eve - ning, find a voice! O - praise Him, o - praise Him, al - le - lu - ia,  
 and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One!

15  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION *Austin Graef***

Gracious Creator,  
 You have given us so much,  
 But too often we take those gifts for granted,  
 Or as something to which we are entitled.  
 You call us to live in caring community,  
 But too often we place our wants and needs first,  
 With those of others a distant second.  
 You call us to share Your gifts with the world around us, But we are worried that there may not be enough,  
 And our worrying gets in the way of our sharing.  
 For all the times when we mistreat and misuse Your gifts, For all the times we assume that we get what we have by  
 ourselves, Forgive us and lead us back to the path of wisdom.  
 ... time of silent prayer ...

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON *Austin Graef***

God is a gracious giver.  
 God is gracious in forgiveness.  
 God calls us to new patterns and new life.  
 We are a forgiven people!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**KIDS TIME** Video at <https://youtu.be/jFYjgPnm9oU>

**SERMON** *Becoming Who You Are: God's Strength to Endure* Dan Cravy (See FPC News email attachment)

## SONG OF RESPONSE "O Church Arise"



O Church a - rise and put your ar - mour on, hear the call of Christ our Cap -  
 Our call to war to love the cap - tive soul but to rage a - gainst the cap -  
 So Spi - rit come, put strength in eve - ry stride, give grace for eve - ry hur -  
 5  
 tain. For now the weak can say that they are strong in the strength that God has giv -  
 tor. And with the sword that makes the woun - ded whole, we will fight with faith and val -  
 dle. That we may run with faith to win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith -  
 9  
 en. With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand a - gainst the dev - il's  
 our. When faced with trials on ev - ery side, we know the out - come is se -  
 ful. As saints of old still line the way re - tell - ing tri - umphs of His  
 13  
 lies. An ar - my bold whose bat - tle cry is Love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.  
 cure. And Christ will have the prize for which He died: an in - her - i - tance of na - tions.  
 grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Tammi Allison

Loving God,  
 You are our Creator and Sustainer.  
 When You open Your hand,  
 You satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.  
 And so we look to You whenever we are in need,  
 trusting in Your love and Your abundant goodness.

As You once fed the hungry crowds with five loaves and two small fish,  
 we ask that You would again fill those who are empty this day.  
 Pour out Your Spirit on all who hunger and thirst.

We pray for those who are physically hungry—whose stomachs are empty.  
 We think especially of people who are facing critical food shortages;  
 who are suffering the effects of malnutrition and starvation;  
 and watching helplessly as loved ones die.

Lord, in Your mercy, open Your hand.  
 Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.

We pray for those who are empty emotionally—  
 who are lonely and long for companionship and love,  
 who are caught in the grip of depression,  
 or overwhelmed with grief.

Lord, in Your mercy, open Your hand.  
 Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.

We pray for those who are spiritually empty—  
 who are troubled, but don't know where to turn;  
 who long for purpose and meaning, but don't know where to look;  
 who need You, but do not yet know You.

Lord, in Your mercy, open Your hand.  
Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.

We pray for those who are ill or injured, especially those in our midst:  
We think of Cecelia Ambriz, Steve Hasterlick, Kelly Nicholson, Jason Kirschner, Bob Maitland, Bob Bricker, Irene Smith, Allen Surber, Jack Freer, Michaela (Boyette) Fetzer, Victor Schlimgen, Mary Barnett, Roy Miller, Nancy and John MacDonald

Lord, in Your mercy, open Your hand.  
Pour out Your Spirit, so that they may be filled.

God, we praise You for Your abundant gifts in our lives.  
Pour out Your Spirit on us as well.  
Fill us with Your compassion and love,  
so that we would willingly share some of our abundance  
with those who have need.

Lord, in Your mercy, open Your hand.  
Pour out Your Spirit, so that we may be filled.  
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who came so that all of humanity might come to know  
the abundant life that comes from You, saying the words He taught us to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your kingdom come, your 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT** Pam and Bob DuBois (video)

**OFFERING** Dan Cravy

As a congregation our tradition has been to give thanks to God not only for his many blessings, but also for those moments of weakness in our lives that have called us to depend on God and for the way God walks with us through our weakness and guilt and suffering, the way the Lord comforts and redeems. Today I invite you to take a moment to write *whatever* thanksgiving is on your heart on the paper leaf in your seat. You may then place it in the offering plate in the Narthex as you depart so that it might be added to our growing tree of thanksgivings. Or maybe you will wish to place it in your Bible or hang it from your car mirror where you can see it. Let's take a moment to reflect on God's goodness to us...  
Now in gratitude for the Lord who lives in us to overcome divisive evil with the grace and truth of his love, let us pledge ourselves to the Lord in prayer - to steward our time, our talents, and our treasures, for his kingdom purposes. You may make pledges and leave gifts in the same offering plate in the Narthex as you exit the sanctuary (or by mail or online). There could never be a more crucial time for the church to point to our light in the darkness. And so we encourage you to return your 2021 pledges to the Lord and to his work by next Sunday, November 29.

**SENDING SONG** "In Christ Alone/Cornerstone"

In Christ a - lone, my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my  
 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full-ness of God in help - less  
 There in the ground His bod - y lay, light of the world by dark - ness  
 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in

5  
 song: this Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id Ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and  
 babe! This gift of love, and right - eous - ness, scorned by the ones He came to  
 slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious day, up from the grave He rose a -  
 me; From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti -

9  
 storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings  
 save. Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -  
 gain! And as He stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on  
 ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His

13  
 cease. My Com - fort - er, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.  
 fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.  
 me; for I am His, and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
 hand, till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

**SENDING** Dan Cravy

And now unto him who is able to do far exceedingly more than we can ask or even imagine, to him be glory in the church, and in Christ Jesus, from generation to generation, forever and ever. And all God's people said: 'Amen!'

**POSTLUDE** Emma Thackston, Austin Graef and Joselyn Thomsen