

FPC Interactive Worship Bulletin for September 13, 2020

PRELUDE *Emma Thackston*

WELCOME *Tracey Cravy*

Welcome to worship! Today we gather in the sanctuary for the first time since March. It is good to be back in this space that feels like home...a space that is our refuge...a space where we are invited step out of the rush and hurry, to bring our worries and turn our hearts to the work of praise and paying attention to God who meets us, embraces us and makes us new.

In Psalm 9 the Psalmist declares:

⁷ God holds the high center,
he sees and sets the world's mess right.

⁹⁻¹⁰ God's a safe-house for the battered,
a sanctuary during bad times.

The moment you arrive, you relax;
you're never sorry you knocked.

What grace to be held in the sanctuary of God's care and protection this day and everyday!

CALL TO WORSHIP *Austin Graef*

One: We each have a right to be here,
a right not based on our righteousness
but on God's free grace.

**All: O give thanks to our God who is good,
whose saving love endures forever.**

One: Let those who are redeemed by God declare it,
rescued from trouble and gathered from many lands;

**All: From the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south,
give thanks to God who is always good!**

One: Let us boldly approach the throne of God,
celebrating our new life in Christ.

OPENING PRAYER *Austin Graef*

Creating God,
we praise you for your word
which called the universe into being;
and for your spirit
which breathed life into your human creation,
made in your image.

We praise you that in your love
you seek to embrace us in our brokenness;
that while your only Son was handed over to death,
you raised him to life,
a new creation by which you recreate each of us
as we believe in hope, and accept in faith.
Source of life, Word of life, Breath of life,
we worship you. Amen.

OPENING SONG "Before the Throne of God Above" -Teresa, Cheyenne and Jacob, Emma Thackston



Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a strong and per - fect
 When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair and tells me of the guilt with -
 Be - hold Him there the ri - sen Lamb my per - fect spot - less right - eous -



plea; a great High Priest whose name is Love Who ev - er lives and pleads for
 in, up - ward I look and see Him there Whomade an end to all my
 ness, the great un - change - a - ble I Am the King of Glo - ry and of



me. My name is gra - ven on His hands, my name is writ - ten on His
 sin. Be - cause the sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is coun - ted
 grace. One with Him - self, I can - not die, my soul is pur - chased with His



heart, I know that while in heav'n He stands no tongue can bid me thence de -
 free. For God the Just is sat - is - fied to look on Him and par - don
 blood, my life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Sav - ior and my



part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
 me, to look on Him and par - don me.
 God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON Austin Graef

Almighty God,
 You have set before us the path
 but we have wandered on our own
 to try to find our way.

Sometimes we are like toddlers
 and we hear Your call and come back.

Other times, we are children testing boundaries,
 ignoring Your call until fear finally makes us look back.

And still other times we are full of youthful rebellion,
 demanding to be cut loose and set free,
 not knowing how much we still need
 to seek Your wisdom and guidance.

But most of all, too often we think we are adults
 and have figured it all our and know our own way,
 only to stumble and stray so far.

Remind us, parental God,
 that we are always Your children,
 that we are never fully grown up in Your sight,
 that we always have much to learn.

Help us to seek You every day,
 to acknowledge that we need Your wisdom and guidance,
 and help us to return to the path and walk with You.
 In the name of Christ,

who is our companion on this journey of faith, we pray. Amen.

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that through him the world might be saved.
Though we were dead through our sins,
in great mercy, God has spoken a word of healing
and made us alive together with Christ.

Sisters and Brothers,
your sins are forgiven;
be at peace.

KIDS ON THE PEWS *Tracey Cravy*

SERMON *Ephesians: Becoming Who You Are* Dan Cravy
See link in email and/or website (fpcmissoula.org)

SONG OF RESPONSE "How Great Thou Art" *Teresa, Cheyenne and Jacob, Emma Thackston*

O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
And when I think that God, His Son not spar-ing, sent Him to
When Christ shall come with shouts of ac-clam-a-tion, and take me

4
all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the
die, I scarce can take it in. That on the cross, my bur-den
home what joy shall fill my heart. Then I shall bow in hum-ble

7
roll-ing thun-der, Thy pow'r through-out the un-i-verse dis-played! Thensingsmy
glad-ly bear-ing, He bled and died to take a-way my sin!
a-dor-a-tion and there pro-claim: My God, how great Thou art!

10
soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Thensingsmy

14
soul, my Sav-ior God, to Thee: How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Emma Thackston*

Lord, we come to You in the midst of a busy season,
longing to rest and to dwell in Your presence.
In a season where schedules are full, anxiety is high, and tension is present,
Be our peace giver.

We come in gratitude for our return to this space that is full of beauty,
a space that helps to facilitate an atmosphere of worship.
May we recognize the ways in which You call us to devote ourselves to You in worship.

As we continue to open our church to our Congolese brothers and sisters,
Would you open our hearts and minds to the possibilities of connection and relationship?
As we listen to their stories, help us to hold them with care and thoughtfulness.

United in Christ who gives us the victory, we pray
for the Church, the Body of Christ,
that we might truly live the unity we receive
through the Holy Spirit. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For the leaders of our churches
that they may be faithful to the unity
to which all Christians are called. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For the nations of the world,
that they may live in peace with one another
and promote justice for all. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For all people,
that we may be good stewards of the earth. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For the people of our society,
that we may be transformed to live
as caring neighbours to each other. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For the sick and suffering,
that they may be transformed
by your healing presence. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For all families and households,
that their struggles and joys may find their fulfilment
in your love. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

For the dying,
that they may be comforted by your presence. God our strength:
Change us by your grace.

Lord, stand in our midst and grant us unity and peace.
Amen.

Gathering all our prayers and praises into one, we pray as our Savior Christ has taught us:

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.

OFFERING *Dan Cravy*

Brothers and sisters, in response to God's gracious gift of salvation from ourselves on behalf of a God-honoring life in Jesus Christ, I invite you to make your offering to the Lord. (You who are in-person may wish to place your gift in the basket as you are later dismissed. You who are at home may wish to make your gifts by mail or online.) May everything that we have and everything we are be stewarded on behalf of the good news of Jesus Christ, to the glory of God.

SENDING SONG "View the Present Through the Promise" *Teresa, Cheyenne and Jacob, Emma Thackston*



View the pre - sent through the prom - ise, Christ will come a - gain. Trust de - spite the
 Probe the pre - sent with the prom - ise, Let your dai - ly
 Match the pre - sent to the prom - ise, Make this hope your



deep - ning dark - ness, Christ will come a - gain. Lift the world a - bove its griev - ing
 ac - tions wit - ness, Let your lov - ing and your giv - ing
 guid - ing prem - ise, Pat - tern all your cal - cu - lat - ing



through your watch - ing and be - liev - ing in the hope past hope's con - ceiv - ing: Christ will come a -
 and your jus - tice and for - giv - ing be a sign to all the liv - ing:
 and the world you are cre - at - ing to the ad - vent you are wait - ing:



gain.

BENEDICTION *Dan Cravy*

Hear this benediction, this doxology from Ephesians 3 in exultant praise and thanksgiving for the gospel story that is our calling to worthy living:

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*

DAN CRAVY, PASTOR | EMMA THACKSTON, RESIDENT WORSHIP DIRECTOR | AUSTIN GRAEF, YOUTH DIRECTOR | PARISH ASSOCIATES: JANET MALONE, BOB SCHURR

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