

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Welcome to worship with FPC! We are glad you are here this morning.

If you are new here, we invite you to fill out a welcome card or email secretary@fpcmissoula.org with your information so we can get connected with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Let us prepare our hearts and minds to worship and encounter our living God.

Call to Worship

One: Here with these people you are called into a mission.

Come, friends, you are welcome –

All: in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

One: Here we choose to like each other, lift each other up, humbly, gently, patiently –

All: in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

One: Here we are a small part of one body in one Spirit,
with one Lord, one faith, one baptism –

All: in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

One: Here we share hope in one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all -

All: in the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

One: Let us worship the God who makes us one!

Gathering Song: Gather Us In

Here in this place, ... new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
Here we re-ceive new life in the wa - ters; here we re-ceive the
Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav en,
van-ished a - way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh ters,
light years a way, here in this place the new light is shin ing;
brought here to you in the light of this day. Gath-er us in, the
call us a new to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the
now is God pres ent, and now is the day. Gath er us in and
lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; the blind and the lame;
wine of com pas sion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
hold us for ev er; gath er us in and make us your own;
Call to us now, and we shall a - wak-en; we shall a - rise at the
nour ish us well, and teach us to fash ion lives that are ho ly and
gath er us in, all peo ples to geth er, fire of love in our



sound of our name.
 hearts that are true.
 flesh and our bone.

Marty Haugen**

PRAISING

Prayer of Adoration

Let us pray.

Gift-giver, you call us together, with our different gifts,
 our different ideas, our different tastes.

You call us together, to share what makes us special,
 to build each other up, to serve each other in love.

You call us together, knowing that we need all parts of the body if we are to be whole.

You call us together, to sing, to pray, to listen, to speak.
 To be refreshed so that we can go out and serve.

Make us one in our faith and hope, and one in our worship and daily living.
 We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Come Thou Fount

Come Thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
 Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above!
 Praise His name, I'm fixed upon it, name of God's redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I've come.
 And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God.
 He to rescue me from danger, bought me with His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be.
 Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love!
 Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Robert Robinson**

Speak, O Lord



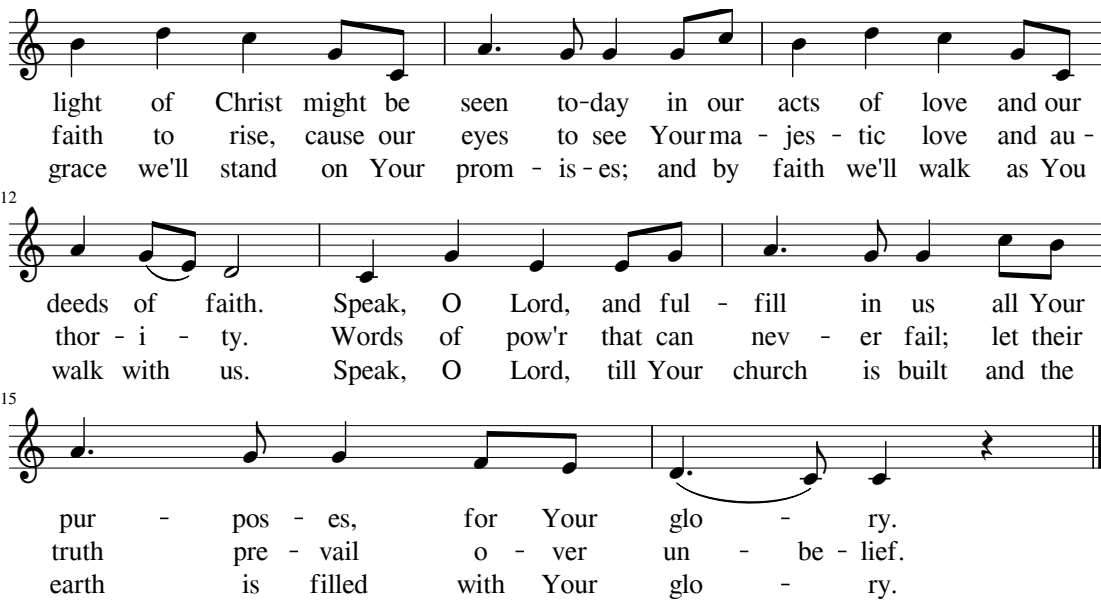
Speak, O Lord, as we come to You to re - ceive the food of Your
 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence, true hu -
 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your



ho - ly word. Take Your truth, plant it deep in us; shape and
 mil - i - ty. Test our thoughts and our at - ti - tudes in the
 plans for us. Truths un - changed from the dawn of time, that will



fash - ion us in Your like - ness, that the
 ra - di - ance of Your pu - ri - ty. Cause our
 e - cho down through e - ter - ni - ty. And by



light of Christ might be seen to-day in our acts of love and our
faith to rise, cause our eyes to see Yourma - jes - tic love and au -
grace we'll stand on Your prom - is - es; and by faith we'll walk as You

12
deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful - fill in us all Your
thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can nev - er fail; let their
walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till Your church is built and the


15
pur - pos - es, for Your glo - ry.
truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
earth is filled with Your glo - ry.

Stuart Townend and Keith Getty**

BELONGING

Song: As the Deer Longs

All Sing the Refrain:



As the deer longs for run - ning streams, so I long,
so I long, so I long for you.

*One: Athirst my soul for you, the God who is my life!
When shall I see, when shall I see, see the face of God? Refrain*

*One: Echoes meet as deep is calling unto deep, over my head,
all your mighty waters, sweeping over me. Refrain*

*One: Defend me, God; send forth your light and your truth.
They will lead me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling place. Refrain*

Bob Hurd***

Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness

Lord Jesus, one God with the Father and the Spirit,
thank you for your amazing generosity to us.

You pour out your gifts on your people,
for the building up of your church,
for the redemption of the world.

We confess to you that many of the gifts you have given us
remain unopened.

We are scared to touch them.

We have not unwrapped them.

We're afraid of what the gift may become in us,
and of what you will ask of us.

So we choose to remain as children instead of maturing
into who you would have us be.

Give us again, Lord God, the gifts that we need
to grow up, to become more like Jesus.

Give us the courage to grasp the gifts within us,
to open space for new skills to grow.
Show us how to serve your people as you call us to.
Thank you, generous God, for the gift of new beginnings.
Amen.

God is at work, nurturing our growth
and showing us the ways that lead to life.
God is at work, reconciling us to one another
and teaching us the paths of love.
One: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God!

STEWARDING

Invitation to Offering

God's wisdom turns the wisdom of the world upside down. God calls us to unexpected and extravagant opportunities to grow in our gifts and in our faith. Holding things close in fear distracts us from the path of discipleship, but trusting in God and in God's future leads us to great generosity and joy. Let us gather our gifts together and offering them to God in gratitude and praise.

Musical Offering

Doxology

FORMING

Kids Time

Sermon: Ephesians 4:7-13

Christ, Kingdom, *Church*: Building Up the Body of Christ

Our Scripture today is from the Book of Ephesians, chapter four. I'm going to read selected verses:

4 I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: **4** there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.^[a]

7 But each of us was given [a gift] according to the measure of Christ's [generosity].

11 He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity,^[a] to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Let's pray.

-This summer we're braiding a threefold cord with biblical texts that speak to the three priorities of the Christian faith.

So, I know. There is a visual aid behind me, but... What are the three priorities of the one would follow Jesus? [Progressively growing relationship with and commitment to Christ, Christ's work in the world, and Christ's Body the Church. Or Christ. Kingdom. Community of believers.]

Say more. What do we mean when we speak of *growing relationship with* and *commitment to*

Christ? – In the first three chapters of Ephesians Paul proclaims that the dynamo at the center of the universe is God's reconciling love, revealed in Jesus Christ. He's the one who has knocked down the walls erected by our sin, healing our divisions from God and one another. He's the one who has welcomed outsiders into his kingdom family to be built together in his love.

To grow in Christ is to make him first priority, our one thing, to stick close, to live under the waterfall of his grace, to let his truth shape you to be a 10-foot shark, to follow in his way, to stay connected in prayer, to be his, to know him as Master and friend, to bear the fruit of his faith and character

The Work of Christ? –to push back against the dark, to heal what’s broken, to overcome evil with good, to participate in what Christ is doing to thread together what’s been torn apart, to advance his kingdom values, to be salt and light, to pursue his flourishing, wholeness and delight – his shalom for all creation, to make disciples, to do justice, to love neighbor

The Body of Christ? – to prioritize life together with other believers; to commit yourself to relationships that matter for the gospel; to be authentic; to worship together, pray together, eat together, share burdens; to pursue Christ and kingdom for the good of the world, *together*

-As you heard in our Scripture, Paul begs us ‘to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which [we] have been called.’ That is, ‘live in a way that is on balance with or in congruence with what God has done for us in Christ.’ It’s a high calling. A life in response to the reconciling love at the heart of it all.

Calling. It comes from the Latin word *vocare* from which we get the word ‘vocation.’ It speaks to the *work* a person is called to do by God and the *way of life* a person has been created to lead when they come fully alive.

As Frederick Buechner says, ‘There are all different kinds of voices calling you to all different kinds of work, and the problem is to find out which is the voice of God rather than of Society, say, or the Super-ego, or Self-Interest.’

And what is our calling? Christ. Kingdom. And. Priority three: Church. Life together in Christian community. In connected discipleship. (Which is not to suggest life apart from those who do not follow Christ, but to emphasize that our life for others draws fuel from our life together in Christ). We’re called to be together in the reconciling love of Jesus: one hope, one Lord, one baptism, one faith. A fire whose flaming warmth can only come from sticks of wood stacked up together in the spark and oxygen of Christ’s love.

I remember when I was a small kid running around the church foyer in San Angelo, Texas. Carol Hall would get down on her knees to look into my eyes and talk to me like I mattered as much as the gospel itself. In my college Christian fellowship, I recall how I wanted to become more like Chris Hiller, a kid whose authenticity and generosity were inspiring. And I’ve been shaped by how James B Notkin, of University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, made Christ-centered relationship the heart of his leadership in our Christian ministry to students. And how in pursuing relationship with me, in believing in me, I got a taste of Jesus’ love.

Pastor Brianne invited you last week to consider the blessings of salt and light we can be to one another:

Blessed are you Sister who made me laugh
Blessed are you father for advocating for kids
Blessed are you Vivian for making me happy
Blessed are you who teaches us about Jesus
Blessed are you my friend for caring about God and creation
Blessed are you who loves me when I don’t love myself
Blessed are you who entered the eternal kingdom with grace and peace as an example for all of us

It’s so often in one *another* that we experience the Holy Other. It’s so often in Jesus followers that we have a taste of Christ. And it’s our calling to surround each other with the sweetness of this humility, gentleness, patience, and loving forbearance that marks his grace.

You know, in puzzling through the disturbing rise of mass shooters, the best article I’ve read was one Ron Righter forwarded me by David Brooks of the New York Times. The diagnosis of such despair is probably not so simply attributable to mental health struggles or gun access, though that’s not to discount them. But when we think about these young men, we would do well to consider the ugly effects of chronic loneliness. To think of those who have found no community of grace. Those who have lost hope that others will see them as valuable. Who then seek notice and oblivion in one last unconscionable act of violence.

Which makes the good news we have to share not only good, but urgent. We have been called to *be* a community that undoes despair. We are – not alone, but together – a family for those who might be otherwise left out, sustenance for those who might otherwise starve for affection. We are, not alone, but together, soft landing, the balm of belonging, disarming hope, for one *another*. How hard would it be to take on the despair of the world by ourselves? But together we are the Body of Christ. And Christ has overcome the darkness with redeeming light.

We are blessed to be One in this gracious calling. One hope. One Lord. One faith. One baptism. And. We are different. We have different gifts. That list of roles: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers. Speer-headers. Truth-tellers. Hope-sharers. Soul-tenders. Life-instructors. All textures and colors of faithful personhood. This is only one of Paul’s lists. We have different gifts. Different roles we play within the community of faith.

It would be valuable to consider what particular gifts you’ve been given: Are you an entrepreneurial leader? An advocate for justice? A sharer of good news? A shepherd of hearts? A mentor of wise teaching?

But more importantly, did you notice what our different stripes are for?

Paul tells us that Christ gave each of us a particular – more accurately, the Bible says that each of us was *given* as a particular gift – quote ‘to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,¹³ until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity,^[a] to the measure of the full stature of Christ.’

Our differences are by design. By the creative, good God’s beautiful, practical design. For the purpose of *each one of us coming fulling alive in Jesus*.

Your particularity and passion within the Body is meant to be used to help equip the saints – that’s the church - for the work of ‘ministry.’ That is, *diakonia*. Deacon work. Skilled servanthood. You are meant to use your gift to help folks become their true selves. To grow up to maturity in humility, gentleness, patience, and forbearing love. As part of your progressively growing commitment to Christ’s Body the church, you’re meant to help others become Christ-like. So that we might be a taste of Jesus’ love and laughter to a hurting world.

One of the images I love for the Church is of a puzzle. Everything fits together to reveal the face of Jesus. He is the one who holds all things together. However, you have been gifted with a piece of that puzzle. A piece that is essential to depicting the fullness of Christ’s face. And his is the face that our world so desperately needs.

Are you growing progressively in your commitment to the Body of Christ?

Are you discovering your gift for others? Giving yourself to build others up to maturity?

What would it *look* like if we saw ourselves as a taste of Jesus to one another? If we saw the church as a taste of Jesus to a hurting world.

Might it look like the Body of Christ, blessed, broken, and given to all who hunger for a blessed belonging that free them to come fully alive?

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Let’s pray:

Lord Jesus today we come to your Table seeking the gift of your life-giving grace. We pray that you would set this bread and cup apart to be for us a communion with your self-giving. Feed us on your humility, gentleness, generosity, and forbearing love, so that we might find healing and hope. Unite us by your Spirit in One Body, the Church. Reveal the ways you have gifted us for growing one another to maturity in faith, hope and love, so that we might be blessed, broken, and given by you to a hungry and hurting world.

Lord, hear us pray in the silence...

As you celebrate the Lord’s Supper at home, you may either take part in the online service (where Pastor Dan will lead) or lead yourself by taking the bread in your hands and saying:

-The Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread.

And when he had given thanks, he broke it. And he gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’

Friends at home, then take the cup in your hands and say:

-In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, saying ‘This is the cup of the new covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.’

The Apostle Paul said that when we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the the saving death of the risen Lord until he comes again.

-Will the servers come forward? There are **both bread and gluten free wafers** so that all may participate. This is **not a Presbyterian Table**. This is the Lord’s Table. And **these are the gifts of God for ALL!**

Now Friends at home, whether one person is serving others or you are celebrating the Lord’s Supper personally, tear off a piece of bread – as large as you wish! - and say:

The body of Christ, given for you, because he loves you.
(*the one receiving or you yourself may add: Thanks be to God!*)

*Then dip the bread into the cup and say:
The blood of Christ, given for you, because he loves you.
(the one receiving or you yourself may add: Thanks be to God!)*

Amen.

Communion Song: Come to the Table

Come all proud, come all greedy. Come all liars, come all shamed.
Come all wealthy, come receive it. To the table, come today.
Come all broken, come all needy. Come all poor, and come all slaves.
Come all rulers, come be seated. Come all sinners, come all saints.
Come to the table, from near and far. Come from the shadows, come out of the dark.
There's room at the table, we saved you a seat. Come to the banquet, come join in the feast.

Every race, every nation. Come all outcasts, come all gay.
From the fringes, come to Jesus to a table full of grace. To the table, come and stay.
Come to the table, come eat and drink. There's no inner circle, come dine with the King.
Recline at the table, come let down your guard. You're never a stranger, just come as you are.

Come be whole, come be loved. Come accepted, come now, come.

Prepared is the table, we're ready to feast. The party is waiting, there's more still to feed.
The harvest is ready, go fill every seat. Go live out the mission as a kingdom of priests.

Mark Alan Schoolmeesters**

SENDING

Sending Song: We are One in the Spirit

We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Peter Scholtes***

Benediction

And now may the peace of Christ go with you
 wherever he may send you.
May he guide you through the wilderness,
 protect you through the storm.
May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonder he has shown you.
May he bring you home rejoicing once again into these doors.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. And all God's people said: **Amen.**

**Reprinted under CCLI license #47079

***Reprinted under OneLicense #A-713782