



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FENTON

To be a loving community of faith dedicated to helping people know Jesus Christ and grow, share and serve as his disciples.

6th Sunday after Epiphany

February 13th, 2022

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude Prelude in Classic Style - Doug Stewart

DRESSING THE TABLE

WELCOME

MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 147:1-11

1 Praise the Lord!

**How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.**

2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

**3 He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.**

4 He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

**5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.**

6 The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

**7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.**

11 the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

ANTHEM Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken - Doug Stewart

OPENING PRAYER

As we open our worship service, help us to open our hearts to you, O Lord. Turn us back from our hectic schedules and the fears of the nightly news. Draw us into your everlasting arms and help us find rest in your presence today. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

We walk through life, confident, strong, boasting of all our achievements. But God sees the hurts we have inflicted on others, the weariness in our bones from chasing after bad choices, and all the foolishness we trip over in the busyness of life. Let us come to God, for the One who listens to our faltering words is the One who gives us the Word filled with grace and mercy. Join me as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

We cannot hide from you, Everlasting God, even if we were to go from one edge of creation to the next. you speak to us of compassion, but the ways in which we treat others show we have not been listening. You explain your hopes to us, and we act as if we don't have a clue as to what is going on. We run as fast, and as far, from you as we can, and wonder why we have no energy to follow Jesus.

Yet you search for us in all the deserted places we flee to, Never-wearied God, so you can take us by the hand to show us the way to life with you. You heal our broken hearts so we can offer them to others. You fill us with your strength so we can bind ourselves to Jesus, our Savior, following him to serve all of your children.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Have you not been listening? God never tires out, nor is there an expiration date on God's forgiveness. God is ever with us, healing us with mercy, and strengthening us for Service.

If God numbers the stars, surely our names are known by the One who loves us and offers us grace. This is indeed good news for all! Thanks be to God. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, fill our hearts and minds with your abiding peace. Quiet the busyness and anxieties that race in our minds. By the power of your Holy Spirit, speak as your Word is proclaimed. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 17:5-10

- 5** Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord.
6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.
7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.
8 They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;

in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

9 The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it?

10 I the Lord test the mind and search the heart,

to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

ANTHEM **It Is Well** - Doug Stewart

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 14:32-42

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” **33** He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. **34** And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” **35** And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.” **37** He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? **38** Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” **39** And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. **40** And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. **41** He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42** Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

SERMON

Not My Will

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Has there ever been a time in your life that your spirit was willing, but your flesh was weak?

Is there something in your life that is keeping you from doing God’s will? What is it?

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Scripture says, “Every good and perfect gift is from above.” But what does that really mean? It means we can only give credit to God for things like wisdom, patience, and

unfailing love. What are we to give back in response? We are asked to use these gifts for the good of the world around us. Lord, we offer these things to you now.

(If you would like a written prayer request included in our prayers today, please indicate that and an usher will collect them)

(Financial Offerings can be placed in dropbox located in the New Narthex)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

You lift us to our feet so we can walk with you, Loving God, and you fill us with your gifts so we may pour them out for those around us. Take what we offer and use them in that kingdom work which strengthens the weary, feeds the hungry, and gives hope to the despairing. Amen.

ANTHEM

Amazing Grace - Doug Stewart

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You lift up those we step over in our race to success;
you soak our aching feet in the waters of life;
you massage hearts bruised by others.
We praise you, Rebuilder of crumbling souls

You pick those not chosen on the playgrounds of life;
you cover open sores with your grace;
you wander our streets, inviting those
who huddle in doorways to feast at your Table.
We follow you, Bread of Heaven.

You gather those who are cast aside by a throwaway society,
and call them by name; you melt hearts hardened by cynicism
with the warmth of your hope; you energize us
so we can sprint into the kingdom.
We welcome you, Delightful Spirit.

God in Community, Holy in One, we come to you as your people,
praying as Jesus has taught us, saying,

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy 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.

ANTHEM **God of Grace and God of Glory** - Doug Stewart

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

God sends us forth into the world,

so we will go, to walk miles in the shoes of others.

Jesus calls us to serve everyone we meet,

so we will become all things to all people.

The Holy Spirit encourages us to let go of our gospel-given rights,

so we may breathe new life into the faint.

POSTLUDE

Peace be with you!

...and also with you!