



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.

7th Sunday after Epiphany

February 20th, 2022

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

DRESSING THE TABLE

WELCOME

MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 139:1-6

- 1 O Lord, you have searched us and know us.
- 2 You know when we sit down and when we rise up;
you discern our thoughts from far away.**
- 3 You search out our path and our lying down,
and are acquainted with all our ways.
- 4 Even before a word is on our tongues,
O Lord, you know it completely.**
- 5 You hem us in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon us .
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for us;
it is so high that we cannot attain it.**

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires, known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM: Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Erin Bradley

CALL TO CONFESSION:

We break our word - God knows;
we hurt another - God knows;
we ignore the needy - God knows.

God also knows the sins we try to hide, even from ourselves. Let us confess to the One who has called us and will make us whole.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

How foolish we are to think we can hide our failings from you, Seeing God. We treat our bodies as trash cans for junk food, not as sanctuaries for your Spirit. We get drunk on the seductions of our society, while daintily sipping at your living water. We doze under the tree of temptation, hoping you won't see us and expect us to get up and follow Jesus.

Forgive us, our heart's only Hope. Your grace mends our brokenness, making us whole; your compassion removes our sin, making us new; your voice speaks tenderly to us, silencing our pride; your Love is made human in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, redeeming our lives.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

In front of us, behind us, to our right, to our left: look! God is there!
In our past, beside us today, waiting in the future: look! God is there!
in the shadows, in the light: look! God is there!

**From the top of the mountains, to the bottom of the seas;
in the morning, in the evening, in every moment: God is with us!
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, our souls thirst for living water. Open our hearts and minds to your Word this day, so that, like the Samaritan woman, we have a grace-filled encounter with you, the Living God. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. **5** And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. **6** For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. **7** God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. **8** So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. **9** Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. **10** You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. **11** I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 14:43-64

43 Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. **44** Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” **45** So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. **46** Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. **47** But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. **48** Then Jesus said to them, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? **49** Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.” **50** All of them deserted him and fled.

51 A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, **52** but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

Jesus before the Council

53 They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. **54** Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. **55** Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. **56** For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. **57** Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, **58** “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” **59** But even on this point their testimony did not agree. **60** Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” **61** But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” **62** Jesus said, “I am; and

‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’ and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’”

63 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? **64** You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death. **65** Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophesy!” The guards also took him over and beat him.

SERMON

Jesus and the Jewish Council

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Does believing in Jesus mean that everything in your life will go well?
Does it feel like God stops loving you when something goes wrong?

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

In the midst of struggle, wrestling with doubt and confusion, pinned to the ground and breathless, we ask God for a blessing.

In our emptiness, we feel like we have nothing to give. Then God reminds us that we are never worthless, that we can always offer something—even the vulnerability of welcoming someone into our emptiness. So we find blessing in being honest, in standing side by side with others in need, in volunteering what we have and in sharing what we lack. Let's come to God with all we have and all we are.

ANTHEM: You Say - Erin Bradley

(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 call us, not because you need us, but because others do. You gift us, not because we are so special, but because others need to be blessed by our gifts. We give from the abundance which is ours, not because we are so generous, but because you have graced us with so much. May our gifts go to serve the work of your kingdom, we pray. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

It doesn't matter how far we go to run from you,
God-who-calls-us: you reach out and touch us
with healing in your hands, and turn us around so we can follow you home.

It doesn't matter how suspicious
we are of you, God-who-invites-us-to-follow:
you remove our fears with your compassion,
you take away our doubts with complete acceptance of who we are.

It doesn't matter how often
we ignore your words, God-who-speaks-to-us:
you whisper to us until our ears
tingle with anticipation and we listen with eager hope.

God in Heaven, Three in One, continue to call us by name,
even as we pray in the name of the One who has taught us to say,

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.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Wonder of wonders! God sends us from this place,
to be healing hands to the world's brokenness.

Wonder of wonders! Jesus calls us as sisters and brothers,
to accept others as completely as we have been embraced.

Wonder of wonders! The Spirit is at work through us,
wherever we are - work, home, playground, shelter, school.

Wonder of wonders!

We will go to live as God's people!

POSTLUDE

Peace be with you!
...and also with you!

Flowers on the Communion Table given In loving memory of my son, Mark, given by Marilee Smiley