



## 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.

### Transfiguration Sunday

February 27th, 2022 10:00 a.m.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### DRESSING THE TABLE

PRELUDE: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Rebekah Ratza

#### WELCOME

#### MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

#### CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 99

- 1 The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!  
He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
- 2 The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.**
- 3 Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!
- 4 Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;  
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**
- 5 Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool.  
Holy is he!
- 6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests,  
Samuel also was among those who called on his name.  
They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.**
- 7 He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;  
they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.
- 8 O Lord our God, you answered them;  
you were a forgiving God to them,  
but an avenger of their wrongdoings.**
- 9 Extol the Lord our God,  
and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.

#### OPENING PRAYER

Great and glorious God, through Jesus you have brought us the fulfillment of your law and the hope of your prophets. Let us be transformed this day by the gift of your Word and Spirit to be a sign of all that you desire in the world that you so love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CALL TO CONFESSION:

It is in our nature to hide our faults. We want to cover up our wrongdoings to those around us so that they will only see the best, the smartest and the nicest parts of us.

It's embarrassing that others know our shortcomings!

As humiliating as it may be, we are assured that:

“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”

Together, we make known our faults so we may find mercy as we confess.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**God our Redeemer, we confess that our lives do not reflect your glory. You shine on us with wonder, but we fail to see your beauty. You speak to us with truth, but we fail to heed your voice. Forgive us, God of grace. Open our eyes to your glory. Open our hearts to your mercy; open our lives to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

## DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Even while Jesus was on the cross, beside two convicted thieves, he said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” But Jesus wasn't just talking about those two criminals; he was talking about us.

**That day, Jesus asked the Lord to forgive us. We have been forgiven—even before we knew we needed forgiveness. This is the power of the Gospel! Amen!**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All-knowing God, your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light to our path.

Through your Spirit:

Give us eyes to spot where you are—here in this place.

Give us ears that strain for your voice of encouragement.

Give us minds to engage your challenge in our lives.

Give us hearts of compassion, empathy, and love for our sisters and brothers around us. Amen.

## ANTHEM:

“Still”

Donna Anderson and Robbie Carnes

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 34:29-35

**29** Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. **30** When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. **31** But Moses called to them; and

Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. **32** Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. **33** When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; **34** but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, **35** the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

#### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 15:16-41**

**16** Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. **17** And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. **18** And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" **19** They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. **20** After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

#### **The Crucifixion of Jesus**

**21** They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. **22** Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). **23** And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. **24** And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

**25** It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. **26** The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." **27** And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. **29** Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, **30** save yourself, and come down from the cross!" **31** In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. **32** Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

#### **The Death of Jesus**

**33** When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. **34** At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" **35** When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." **36** And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." **37** Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. **38** And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. **39** Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

**40** There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. **41** These used to follow

him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

## **SERMON**

Anatomy of a Crucifixion

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

What does it mean to you that Jesus died for you?

How do you respond?

## **BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD**

## **OFFERING**

Giving requires us to place something in the hands of someone else.  
When we give an offering, we place what we have into God's loving hands.  
Knowing this, we are asked to give freely, out of love, just as God did when we were given Jesus Christ. God gave out of love.  
So shall we.

## **ANTHEM: The Power of the Cross - Rebekah Ratza**

*(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**

Just as we dedicate these gifts to you, Lord, we dedicate our lives.  
Use these gifts and use our lives, we pray. Our hope is that these offerings will make a difference in our community, especially in the lives of those who need your grace the most. In Christ's name 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**

Joining our hearts and minds in prayer, let us call on the name of the Lord, saying: O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for the church...

Give us the Spirit of freedom in the Lord to proclaim with boldness the gift of faith we have in Christ. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for the world...

Let your love for justice and peace be known in all the nations of the world. Establish your holy realm in every place. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for this community...

Enable us to see the face of Christ in the faces of our neighbors, honoring your image in all people. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for loved ones...

Cast out all the powers of evil that disrupt the lives of those we love; bring them wholeness and healing. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

Mighty God, strengthen your people so that we may live in the world as those you have chosen and called through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **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 BENEDICTION**

Seize God's strength and power.

Pay attention to how Christ dwells among us.

Grasp onto the width, length, height, and depth of Christ's love.

Let that love surpass your knowledge.

Let that love fill you to the brim.

Let that love unite you with all of God's people.

And remember, the Lord is able to do far, far more than what we could ask or even imagine.

God is at work in you.

May Christ Jesus be at work in all of us forever. Go out in the Power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

## **POSTLUDE**

Peace be with you!

**...and also with you!**