



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.

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 20th, 2022 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

DRESSING THE TABLE The Old Rugged Cross *with* He Was Despised (Handel)

WELCOME

MOMENT OF HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

Wisdom has built herself a house; she has prepared her food, mixed her wine and set her table... She calls to all in the cities and in the town... Come and eat my food and drink the wine I have made. (Proverbs 9:1-5)

Jesus, you are Holy Wisdom; Holy Wisdom you are.

Who can find a valiant woman? She is far more precious than jewels. Give her a share in what her hands have made. Let her works tell her praises. (Proverbs 31:10)

Jesus you are Holy Wisdom; Holy Wisdom you are.

Wisdom calls aloud in the streets...I will pour out my heart to you...tune your ear to wisdom and your heart to truth...then you will understand who God is and discover love of life...then you will understand justice and the ways of happiness. (Proverbs 1:20, 2:1,6)

Jesus you are Holy Wisdom; Holy Wisdom you are.

Wisdom is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs at the days to come...Many are the women of proven worth, but you have excelled them all.
(Proverbs 31:25, 29)

Jesus you are Holy Wisdom; Holy Wisdom you are.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, I bow before you in worship and I praise your name because of your unfailing love. You are faithful in all your promises, and you always keep your word. You are trustworthy and your promises preserve my life. Your word gives me life, and it is a light for my path in life. I praise you for your beautiful words that are soothing to the soul.

GOD'S GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Our help comes from the Lord,

the maker of heaven and earth.

Grace, mercy, and peace are yours, from God the

Father Almighty, from the lord Jesus Christ, and from the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Confident of God's love for us, let us offer our prayers,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Loving and merciful God, you created each of us in your own image to live in community. You graced us generously with the gifts of apostles, prophets,

pastors and teachers. You equipped all of us, women and men alike, for the work of ministry. Yet too often we tarnish your image, waste our gifts, refuse to accept your call to service and fail to live at peace with our neighbors.

O, God, in the name of Christ, help us to turn to you to shape us as you intended when you created us. Fill us with your Spirit and strengthen us to continue our journey and complete the task of shaping the Christian community as one people of God. We trust that all things are possible through you. In the name of Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Jesus promises us that we are forgiven, loved and enough.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed. Amen.

ANTHEM There is a Higher Throne - Chancel Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS:

1 Timothy 3:8-13

Qualifications of Deacons

8 Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; 9 they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. 11 Women likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons be married only once, and let them manage their children and their households well; 13 for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Acts 6:1-6

Seven Chosen to Serve

6 Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. 2 And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, 4 while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” 5 What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

Romans 16:1-16

Personal Greetings

16 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, 2 so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.

3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, who work with me in Christ Jesus, 4 and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ. 6 Greet Mary, who has worked very hard among you. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. 8 Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. 9 Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. 10 Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. 11 Greet my relative Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. 12 Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. 13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; and greet his mother—a mother to me also. 14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who are with them. 15

Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. 16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

SERMON

Phoebe the Deacon

Pastor Lindsey Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What do we lose when only certain people or certain gifts and abilities are seen as valuable for ministry?

What do we gain when all persons are able to express and use their gifts for ministry?

WITNESS TO GOD'S GOODNESS

Robbie Carnes

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

During Lent, we are invited to pause and notice and prepare. May this be a time of outward focus, seeking God in those who we often ignore. May we live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity and encounter. May God give us hearts hungry to serve Him and those who need what we have to give.

(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

God of the cross, in losing our lives we find them in you. In sharing our money and time, we get to participate in the blessings of your Kingdom. Use these gifts toward the holy work of peace, justice, and service in the world. 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**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.

HYMN IN CHRIST ALONE**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

May the grace of God,
deeper than our imagination;
the strength of Christ,
stronger than our need;
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
richer than our togetherness,
guide and sustain us today
and in all our tomorrows.

POSTLUDE

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing - Sunday School Children

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