



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.

PALM SUNDAY

April 10, 2022 10:00 A.M.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

OPENING PRAYER

Merciful God, as we enter Holy Week and gather at your house of prayer, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ so that, united with Christ and all the faithful, we may one day enter in triumph the city not made by human hands, the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory forever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM Luke 19:28–40

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

28 After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29 When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, **30** saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. **31** If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" **32** So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. **33** As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" **34** They said, "The Lord needs it." **35** Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. **36** As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. **37** As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of

Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, **38** saying,

“Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!”

39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, order your disciples to stop.” **40** He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.”

PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH The procession into the church begins.

HYMN “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” (PH 88)
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Like the people who greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem and then later pronounced “Crucify him,” we are fickle people who often deny Christ in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Remembering the events of Jesus’ last week helps us see ourselves for what we are: sinners in need of a Savior, a Savior—praise God—we have in Christ. In honesty and hope, we confess now our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you, we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem’s, that our faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Savior of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own. Amen

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Hear the Word of the Lord from Psalm 118:
Let those who fear the Lord say,
“His steadfast love endures for ever.”
Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free.
The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, whose Word silences the shouts of the mighty: Quiet within us every voice but your own. Speak to us through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may receive grace to show Christ's love in lives given to your service. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 54:1-17

- 1** Sing, O barren one who did not bear;
burst into song and shout,
you who have not been in labor!
For the children of the desolate woman will be more
than the children of her that is married, says the Lord.
- 2** Enlarge the site of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.
- 3** For you will spread out to the right and to the left,
and your descendants will possess the nations
and will settle the desolate towns.
- 4** Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed;
do not be discouraged, for you will not suffer disgrace;
for you will forget the shame of your youth,
and the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.
- 5** For your Maker is your husband,
the Lord of hosts is his name;
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.
- 6** For the Lord has called you
like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,
like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off,
says your God.
- 7** For a brief moment I abandoned you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.
- 8** In overflowing wrath for a moment
I hid my face from you,
but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,
says the Lord, your Redeemer.
- 9** This is like the days of Noah to me:
Just as I swore that the waters of Noah

would never again go over the earth,
so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you
and will not rebuke you.

10 For the mountains may depart
and the hills be removed,

but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,
says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

11 O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted,
I am about to set your stones in antimony,
and lay your foundations with sapphires.

12 I will make your pinnacles of rubies,
your gates of jewels,
and all your wall of precious stones.

13 All your children shall be taught by the Lord,
and great shall be the prosperity of your children.

14 In righteousness you shall be established;
you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear;
and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

15 If anyone stirs up strife,
it is not from me;

whoever stirs up strife with you
shall fall because of you.

16 See it is I who have created the smith
who blows the fire of coals,
and produces a weapon fit for its purpose;

I have also created the ravager to destroy.

17 No weapon that is fashioned against you shall prosper,
and you shall confute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.

This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord
and their vindication from me, says the Lord.

ANTHEM "Jesus Shall Reign" - Handbells Choir, Bob Chappelle, Robbie Carnes

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

6 who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

7 but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

8 he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
9 Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
10 so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

SERMON

A Tent, a Delinquent, and a Marriage

Robbie Carnes

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

The willingness to give is a sign of life. The fruit tree gives of its fruit, and we know it is alive. When it no longer gives, we know real life has gone out of it. The heart that hoards the blessings of God is no longer alive with spiritual power. To give is to live.

(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

O Mighty One, you have done great things for us, and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you— our selves, our time, and our possessions— that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. 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.***

ANTHEM "Holy, Holy, Holy" - Sunday School Handbells

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, whose gracious love for us embraced that long and lonely journey to the cross, gather us close to you in these days when again we make that journey in meditation and recollection. Help us to contemplate again the way taken by our

Savior: the false charges against him, the fear and flight of the disciples, the kiss of betrayal, the crown of thorns, the purple robe—and in such contemplation give us courage to face those times in our own lives when he received the same at our hands. Yet help us also remember that you have gone before us, so we look to you for compassion and forgiveness, knowing you are able to save. When we are weak, make us strong; when hurt and resentful, make us forgiving; when defeated and discouraged, make us hopeful. Keep us from asking for mercy without giving it ourselves, from praying for your kingdom but never working for it. In this week, deepen our faith by your matchless grace. Deepen the measure of our gratitude and Christian obedience. Move us, who have so much, to share with others who have so little. Uphold us when we summon our courage to speak out for the alien and stranger within our gates and for those long denied dignity and freedom. Guard and guide us through these days of meditation and remembrance. Guard and guide us through all our days until we come at last to that day when all our days and journeys will be gathered into your eternity, and we shall be with you forever. Glory be to you, O God. 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.

ANTHEM “The Power of the Cross” - Handbells Choir

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

May our Lord, whose arms were spread on the cross to embrace the whole world, help us this week to take up the cross and follow him. Amen.

POSTLUDE “Toccata on All Glory, Laud, and Honor” - Rebekah Ratza

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