



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 Easter
May 1, 2021 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE "And Can it Be? Chancel Choir

WELCOME

INTROIT "There is a Higher Throne" Chancel Choir (Congregation is invited to join)

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 90

Turn, O Lord! How long?

Have compassion on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,

and as many years as we have seen evil.

Let your work be manifest to your servants,

and your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,

and prosper for us the work of our hands -

O prosper the work of our hands!

OPENING PRAYER

Risen Savior, Jesus Christ, as you appeared by the sea and surprised your disciples with a miraculous catch of fish, surprise us this day with the fullness of your grace, so that we may truly know that you are our Lord and you are risen indeed. Amen.

HYMN "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eternal God, in the reading of the Scripture, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
 because the Lord has anointed me;
 he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
 to bind up the brokenhearted,
 to proclaim liberty to the captives,
 and release to the prisoners;
 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
 and the day of vengeance of our God;
 to comfort all who mourn;
 to provide for those who mourn in Zion-
 to give them a garland instead of ashes,
 the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
 the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
 They will be called oaks of righteousness,
 the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

ANTHEM "And Can it Be?" Handbells Choir**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Acts 11:19-26; Acts 13:1-3

19 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. **20** But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. **21** The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. **22** News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. **23** When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; **24** for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. **25** Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, **26** and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called "Christians."

13 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. **2** While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." **3** Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

SERMON Dealing with Identity: Antioch

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Do people like being called Christian?

How do we express to our neighborhood what a Christian is?

WITNESS TO GOD'S GOODNESS

Mark Gram

OFFERING

Because we love our Lord Jesus Christ, we should feed his lambs and tend his sheep. We can best do this by nurturing faith in community and financially contributing to the work of the church. Let us consider together what God is calling us to give toward the ministries of this place.

(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

We thank you, Father in Heaven, of the many blessings that you have poured out among us. We give because we are confident of your goodness. Grant that our gifts are used competently to share with others your goodness. Amen.

OFFERTORY “Put Your Hand in the Hand” Jeanne Cupp

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.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Risen Christ still surprises us with his presence, inviting us to follow him, to come and eat with him; calling us to love him and feed the sheep of his flock. It is at this table that each of us have an invitation. Not because we have earned it or deserve it, but because of Jesus' great

love for each of us. Come, gather around Jesus' table and let us sup with our big brother in our Father's house!

CELEBRATION OF 40 YEAR MEMBERS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rejoicing in God's promise of new creation, let us pray to the Maker of heaven and earth, saying God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church...

Give us glad hearts and full voices to sing glory and honor and blessing to you with all the saints around your throne. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world...

Protect those who are the victims of violence, threats, and persecution. Convert oppressors to your way of peace. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community...

Help us to feed, tend, and care for those you have entrusted to us. Let our love show your love. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones...

Remember all who suffer or grieve. Turn their mourning into dancing and their sorrow into joy. God of new life, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, keep us working and praying for the coming of your holy realm of peace, when we will share abundant life with you; through Jesus Christ, our risen 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.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Come let us worship and bow down. Let come before our Lord, our God, our Maker. For he is our God and we are his people; the sheep of his fold. Our shepherd is kind and tenderhearted, willing to forgive and heal.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God of everlasting life, we confess that we continue in the ways of death. We fail to love and feed the sheep that you have given us to tend. We stand by while some are threatened and even participate in persecution.

Forgive us, God of grace. Change the part we are on, show us the light of your way, and send us forth to serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Psalm 103 says:

The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

COMMUNION**WORDS OF INSTITUTION****Communion Prayer:**

God, who nourishes us for the journey, it is strengthening to know that as we have gathered at your table today, your people throughout the world are offering praise and thanksgiving as bread and wine are shared. May the mystery of your presence, experienced in our worship, bind us together into one worldwide community. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD**HYMN** “The Power of the Cross”**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

People of God, not only in our common worship but also in our daily lives may we live in obedience to this invitation: Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Almighty God, we thank you for having renewed your church at various times and in various ways by rekindling the fire of love for you through the work of your Holy Spirit. Rekindle your love in our hearts and renew us to fulfill the great commission that your Son committed to us so that, individually and collectively, as members of your church we may

help many to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Empower us by your Spirit to share with our neighbors and friends our human stories in the context of your divine story, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE “Glorious is Thy Name” Rebekah Ratza

May the Peace of Christ be with you...

...And also with you!
