



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.

4th Sunday after Pentecost
July 3, 2022 10:00 AM

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

All you saints! Sing your hearts out to God! Thank him to his face!

He gets angry once in a while, but across a lifetime there is only love.

The nights of crying your eyes out give way to days of laughter.

When things were going great, we crowed, "I've got it made. we're God's favorite. He made us king of the mountain."

Then we looked the other way and we fell to pieces.

We called out to you, God... Help us out of this!"

You did it: you changed wild lament into whirling dance;

You ripped off our black mourning band and decked us with wildflowers.

We're about to burst with song; we can't keep quiet about you.

God, my God, We can't thank you enough.

OPENING PRAYER

Living God, You appeared to your disciples in their hour of fear, and offered them your peace to still their hearts. Would you grant us that peace in this moment? That we might leave every negativity, every bit of shame and guilt; every last drop of regret at your feet and stand ready to be filled by your Spirit. Give us courage to be bold in who we believe; may we hold firm to your promise of life and hope, and strive to walk in your ways. Amen.

HYMN God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this your Word, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life. Through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 30

- 1** I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
2 O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.
3 O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
4 Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.
5 For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
6 As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."
7 By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.
8 To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:
9 "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?"
10 Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!"
11 You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
12 so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

ANTHEM "Patriotic Medley"

Morris Fulcher

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 4:1-22

4 While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, **2** much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. **3** So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. **4** But many of those who heard the word believed, and they numbered about five thousand.

5 The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, **6** with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. **7** When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" **8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, **9** if we are being questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are being asked how this man has been healed, **10** let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. **11** This Jesus is

'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.'

12 "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. **14** When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in

opposition. **15** So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. **16** They said, “What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. **17** But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.” **18** So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in God’s sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; **20** for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.” **21** After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened. **22** For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more than forty years old.

SERMON No Longer Afraid (Holy Boldness)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you ever felt the Spirit enabling you to be bold?

Is the Spirit calling you to be bold in a certain area of your life today?

WITNESS TO GOD’S GOODNESS

Rev. Shane O’Neil

OFFERING

As we offer our gifts to our Gentle Shepherd, may we lay down our prejudices towards others, so they might find a welcome in our hearts; may we set aside our fears of the future, so Jesus might lead us into his future, and may we become the goodness and mercy for which others have been looking all their lives.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Bless our gifts today Lord, in your mercy. So that the ministries of this church might flourish in honoring you. So that the mission of this church might be successful in doing your will. So that the people of this church become more and more like you. We pray this in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

(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 also be placed in dropbox located in the New Narthex)

OFFERTORY “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” Rebekah Ratza

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lead us, Creation's Architect, into all those places
where we will discover your hope waiting to nourish and restore
our famished souls.

Lead us, Shepherd of little children, into all those places
where we may have the joy of filling the emptiness of others
with your goodness.

Lead us, Spirit of Goodness, into all those places
where deeds of kindness and hands overflowing with mercy
speak louder than platitudes.

God in Community, Holy in One, lead us into your kingdom
as we pray as Jesus has taught us, saying,

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:

Knowing how easy it is to wander from the paths of right living; aware of all the shadowed valleys we wander; remembering how we have failed to place our trust in God - how can we not come to God with our confessions? Please join me as we pray, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Comfort of your people: we confess the emptiness of our souls which sends us searching for all those things which cannot nourish us. Our restless longing for the goods of the world fill us with every lust and envy. Our belief that still waters are stagnant causes us to thirst for whitewater thrills and adventures. Our trust in the hollow promises of our culture turns us away from the shelter you offer to us.

Forgive us, Goodness Incarnate. Call us back from our wayward lives, so we may find rest in the stillness of your gentle heart; we may find healing from your scarred hands; we may find that life for which we yearn, together in you and through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

This is the good news: God will walk with us in every moment, God will fill us with goodness and mercy, God will bring us home to live forever.

Anointed with grace and forgiveness, our lives overflow with love for all people. Thanks be to God. Amen.

COMMUNION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

May the God of green pastures be with you.

And also with you.

Beloved, still your hearts before God.

We open them to the One who fills them with living water.

Children of God, give thanks for the sake of God's name.

Our praise is continually offered to our Heart, our Shepherd, and our Savior.

Imaginative Shepherd, into the bitterness of chaos, you poured pools of living water; into the cracks of nothingness, you filtered dirt, seeds, nutrients so lush pastures of life might emerge; you carved paths of beauty and wonder for those who bear your name and image to walk, but we longed to follow sin and death all the days of our life, and so turned away from you.

You gave your rod and staff to prophets, trusting that their words might anoint us with healing, yet we only found comfort in seduction's all-too-false promises. So, in the presence of these enemies we did not recognize, you sent Jesus, to be that grace and hope which we needed, even if we didn't want them.

With those assembled in this place and time, with those whose love is shown in their actions, we gather as your people, singing your praise and our thanksgiving:

Holy, holy, holy are you, Good Shepherd of all peoples.

Still waters, green pastures, sparkling stars join all creation in praising you.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comforts us.

Hosanna in the highest!

You are holy, yet compassionate, God of our hearts, and your good shepherd, Jesus, comes to save us. When we would wander the deserts of sin, he leads us to the green pastures of grace. When we turn down the wrong road towards foolishness, he takes our hands to show us the right path. When we are tossed about by life, he brings us to the still waters of your gentleness. Walking through the darkest valley, he surrendered to the cold embrace of death, until you brought him out of the grave, anointing him with the oil of resurrection.

As we would join goodness and mercy in following the Good Shepherd all the days of our lives, we celebrate that mystery we call faith:

Christ died, walking through death's valley;

Christ was raised, the Good Shepherd for us all;

Christ will come, to bring all into the one flock of God.

You have prepared this table for us, anointing the bread and the cup, as well as all your people, with the Holy Spirit. May this bread which is broken be our healing and strength, so we walk the shadows of our world, leading our sisters and brothers down the paths of healing and hope.

As we are anointed with the cup's grace, may we bring comfort to the lonely, build homes for those who have none, fill the hungry with nourishing food, shower them with goodness and mercy.

And when there are no more shadows around us, when your rod of reconciliation and your staff of salvation gather us around the Table prepared for us in eternity, we will join all from every time and place, singing your praises with glad voices, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Communion Prayer

Lord God, in deep gratitude for this moment, this meal, these people, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, the privilege is ours to be called to share in the loving, healing, and reconciling mission of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in this age and wherever we are. Since without you we can do no good thing, may your Spirit make us wise; may your Spirit guide us; may your Spirit renew us; may your Spirit strengthen us so that we will be strong in faith; discerning in proclamation; courageous in witness; persistent in good deeds. This we ask through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Postlude on God of Our Fathers"

Rebekah Ratza

May the Peace of Christ be with you...

...And also with you!
