



## 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.

**6th Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 17, 2022 10:00 AM**

1

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE** “Still, My Soul, Be Still”

#### **WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 15

1 O Lord, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**2 Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right  
and speak the truth from their heart;**

3 who do not slander with their tongue  
and do no evil to their friends  
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

**4 in whose eyes the wicked are despised  
but who honor those who fear the Lord;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

5 who do not lend money at interest  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

**Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God, patient and kind, you know that we are worried and distracted by many things. Help us to choose the better part--the joy and peace of your presence--so that we might enjoy the life that can never be taken away; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**HYMN** “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

#### **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

As believers in the Creator God and followers of Jesus Christ, we have a longing to confess our sins—because sin is what gets in the way of our relationships with God and one another. So we come to this time of confession, knowing and believing that God’s grace is already at work even before we mumble a word.

For where sin increases, grace increases all the more. We humbly pray together now and confess the burdens of our hearts.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

**Faithful and loving God, we confess that we have not lived in faith and love. In the business of our daily life we trample on the poor and needy. In our daily worry and distraction we forget to rest in your presence. Forgive us, God of grace. Let us be reconciled to you and to one another in Christ, so that we may declare your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON:**

Christ died and was resurrected so that we may have new life and be forgiven of our sins. This is wonderful news! Now go out and act as loved and forgiven people. Be at peace and know that you're forgiven through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Jesus, Beloved Son of God, reveal yourself to us, beneath the bright wings of the Holy Spirit. Dazzle us with your brightness, overshadow us with your glory, speak to us.  
We are listening. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** Amos 8:1-12

This is what the Lord God showed me: a basket of summer fruit. **2** He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the Lord said to me,

"The end has come upon my people Israel;

I will spare them no longer.

**3** The songs of the temple shall become wailings on that day,"

says the Lord God;

"the dead bodies shall be many,

cast out in every place. Be silent!"

**4** Hear this, you who trample on the needy,

and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

**5** saying, "When will the new moon be over

so that we may sell grain,

and the Sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier

and practice deceit with false balances,

**6** buying the poor for silver

and the needy for a pair of sandals

and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

**7** The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

**8** Shall not the land tremble on this account,

and everyone mourn who lives in it,

and all of it rise like the Nile,

and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?

**9** On that day, says the Lord God,

I will make the sun go down at noon  
 and darken the earth in broad daylight.  
**10** I will turn your feasts into mourning  
 and all your songs into lamentation;  
 I will bring sackcloth on all loins  
 and baldness on every head;  
 I will make it like the mourning for an only son  
 and the end of it like a bitter day.  
**11** The time is surely coming, says the Lord God,  
 when I will send a famine on the land,  
 not a famine of bread or a thirst for water,  
 but of hearing the words of the Lord.  
**12** They shall wander from sea to sea  
 and from north to east;  
 they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord,  
 but they shall not find it.

**ANTHEM**                    *“Alleluia from Exultate Jubilate”*

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Acts 4:32-37

**32** Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. **33** With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. **34** There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. **35** They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. **36** There was a Levite from Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”). **37** He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

**SERMON**                    Extravagant Generosity (Wealth Distribution?)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**Has God blessed you financially or in other ways?  
 How can you, then, be a blessing to others?**

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

**OFFERING**

Honor the Lord with who you are, and with the best that you can do; then, like a barn at harvest, your life will have room to welcome God’s plenty.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Let us pray for the offering)**

Gracious God, receive now our offering which is just a portion of the blessings you have given to us. Use these gifts, and use each one of us as a living offering to you, for your glory and for your work of healing and wholeness in our world and in the lives of our neighbors. 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**           “Give Me Jesus”

**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**           “The Church’s One Foundation”

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

As you leave this place, remember to praise God.

And also remember:

Praise is not just acknowledging God’s goodness when things are going your way.

Praise is also crying out when you are struggling— because praise is an act of trust.

Praise the Lord who watches over you now and forevermore.

Hallelujah! And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

**POSTLUDE**           “Festival of Praise”

Peace be with you!

*...and also with you!*