



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.

24th Sunday after Pentecost

July 24, 2022 10:00 AM

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE “Still, My Soul, Be Still”

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 138

1 I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

**2 I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,**
for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

**3 On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength of soul.**

6 For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

**8 The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord you have taught us how to pray. Keep us faithful, O God, in daily prayer and in daily life--always asking and searching for signs of your coming realm, on earth as it is in heaven. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Jesus says, “Are you tired? Burned out? Worn out? Come to me.”

He promises rest.

When we come before God and confess our sins, We are not only handing over those burdens,
We are asking Jesus to give us rest.

Listen to the Messiah. In this time of confession, allow him to take those burdens away.

Confess.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Faithful and loving God, we confess that we have not lived in faith and love. You claim us as your own people, but we forsake your holy covenant. You offer us the gift of prayer, but we forget to lift our hearts to you. Forgive us, God of grace. Help us to live our lives in Christ, rooted and grounded in our faith and growing each day in your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

We have taken time to admit some things that we want or need to change—a mistake, some guilt, a lie, the brokenness of it all. Something somehow has made us feel distant from God.

But in Jesus Christ, we can be assured: We are not distant. We have been heard. We are loved. And we are forgiven!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, we have questions. So many questions. We want to learn more about you, yet we don't know where to begin. Help us to find a starting place in your story. Through it, shed light upon our darkness, our wanderings, our doubts. Settle within us the discomfort that comes with the questions. Calm our deepest fears and anxieties as we find root in the Word told to us this day. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON: Colossians 2:6-15 The Message

6-7 My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now *live* him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start *living* it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.

8-10 Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. But that's not the way of Christ. Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything.

11-15 Entering into this fullness is not something you figure out or achieve. It's not a matter of being circumcised or keeping a long list of laws. No, you're already *in*—insiders—not through some secretive initiation rite but rather through what Christ has already gone through for you, destroying the power of sin. If it's an initiation ritual you're after, you've already been through it

by submitting to baptism. Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as he did Christ. When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive—right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant canceled and nailed to Christ’s cross. He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.

ANTHEM “Prelude in Classic Style”

Cameron Carlson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 17:1-9

17 After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a Jewish synagogue. **2** And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three Sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, **3** explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead and saying, “This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.” **4** Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. **5** But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason’s house. **6** When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some brothers and sisters before the city authorities, shouting, “These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, **7** and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.” **8** The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, **9** and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

SERMON

They’ve turned the world upside down!

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

In what way has the Gospel turned your world upside down?
Is this an unnerving experience? How can you pray for boldness?

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Whatever you do, put your whole self into it; do it for God:
If you are an encourager, build others up; if you are a giver, show generosity; if you are a leader, be diligent; and if you are compassionate, work with a glad heart.
Whatever you do, put your whole self into it, and do it for God.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Just as we dedicate these gifts to you, Lord, we dedicate our lives. Use these gifts and use our lives, we pray. Our hope is that these offerings will make a difference in our community, especially in the lives of those who need your grace the most. In Christ's name we pray. 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 be placed in dropbox located in the New Narthex)

OFFERTORY

“It Is Well”

Cameron Carlson

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

“To God Be the Glory”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

God says, “I will be with you.”
Waters won't overwhelm you.
Fire will not burn you.
Hear this promise: you will be okay!
So go now;
walk forward in faith, not fear.
Know and believe that you are called by name.
Show and share that redeeming love of our Savior
now and forevermore.

POSTLUDE

“Alleluia from Exultate Jubilate”

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