



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.

10th Sunday after Pentecost

August 14, 2022 10:00 AM

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Prelude on “Evan”

Bonnie Griffith

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Long ago a vineyard was planted.

The ground was prepared, and all was made ready.

**But the vines grew wild,
the ground was unable to support the wild grapes.**

What happened in that place of promise?

People forgot the One who planted the vineyard.

They chose their own ways and failed.

Let us again turn to the Lord, who will again plant, prune, and cause us to grow in faithfulness.

**Let us open our hearts to God,
trusting in God's ways and God's word. AMEN.**

OPENING PRAYER (Isaiah 5, Hebrews 11, Luke 12)

Lord of the vineyard, we ask for your presence and your guidance. In your holy wisdom, tend the vines of our hearts. Teach us your righteousness, that our lives may flower with justice. We come as wild grapes, yearning to grow fruitful in your love. Show us the way, through Jesus your Son, to discern your will, hear your word, and grow in your ways, as we deepen the roots of our faith.

HYMN

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

CALL TO CONFESSION

God asks us to allow him to change the parts of our lives that do not conform to God's will. Examine your heart, your minds, and your spirit as we pray together,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Isaiah 5, Psalm 80, Hebrews 11) (In Unison)

Divine God, we try to grow happily, patiently, and faithfully in the soil you have prepared for us. You feed us, shelter us, and provide for our daily needs. Yet, we often fail to offer you the fruit of our harvest. We act as though we were abandoned children, trying to make it on our own. We feel forsaken, attacked by wild boars, cut down by our enemies, and neglected in the wilderness of our lives. Yet, through it all, you remain faithful. Renew our lives once more, and we will call your name on high.

DECLARATION OF PARDON (Isaiah 5, Psalm 80, Hebrews 11)

Be assured that God's love is sufficient. In the warmth of the sun, the fertility of the soil, and the refreshment of life-giving water, we have been given all that we need. God hears our cries, and comes to save us. Through Christ we may lay aside our sins; through Christ, we know we are safe.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 46:1-13

- 46** Bel bows down, Nebo stoops,
 their idols are on beasts and cattle;
 these things you carry are loaded
 as burdens on weary animals.
- 2** They stoop, they bow down together;
 they cannot save the burden,
 but themselves go into captivity.
- 3** Listen to me, O house of Jacob,
 all the remnant of the house of Israel,
 who have been borne by me from your birth,
 carried from the womb;
- 4** even to your old age I am he,
 even when you turn grey I will carry you.
 I have made, and I will bear;
 I will carry and will save.
- 5** To whom will you liken me and make me equal,
 and compare me, as though we were alike?
- 6** Those who lavish gold from the purse,
 and weigh out silver in the scales—
 they hire a goldsmith, who makes it into a god;
 then they fall down and worship!
- 7** They lift it to their shoulders, they carry it,
 they set it in its place, and it stands there;
 it cannot move from its place.
 If one cries out to it, it does not answer
 or save anyone from trouble.
- 8** Remember this and consider,
 recall it to mind, you transgressors,
- 9** remember the former things of old;
 for I am God, and there is no other;
 I am God, and there is no one like me,
- 10** declaring the end from the beginning
 and from ancient times things not yet done,
 saying, 'My purpose shall stand,

and I will fulfil my intention',
11 calling a bird of prey from the east,
 the man for my purpose from a far country.
 I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass;
 I have planned, and I will do it.
12 Listen to me, you stubborn of heart,
 you who are far from deliverance:
13 I bring near my deliverance, it is not far off,
 and my salvation will not tarry;
 I will put salvation in Zion,
 for Israel my glory.

ANTHEM

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Bonnie Griffith

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 13:1-3

Barnabas and Saul Commissioned

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

When God Chooses (Saul Commissioned)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What does it mean to you to be "set apart" for God's work?
 Reflect on when have you seen or been prayed for personally with the laying on of hands?

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Loving Gardener, we offer ourselves into your nurturing hands. Receive the devotions of our labors, the fruits of our vines, and all that we are and know, that we may make a difference: in our homes, in our communities, and in our world. Receive these sacrifices, as a pledge to live our beliefs, through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

(If you would like a written prayer request included in our prayers today, please indicate that and an usher will collect them)

OFFERTORY Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Bonnie Griffith

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 Great is Thy Faithfulness

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing Bonnie Griffith

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