



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.

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 28, 2022 10:00 AM

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Rebekah Ratza

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 81, Jeremiah 2, Hebrews 13)

God says, "I am the fountain of living water.

I will feed you with the finest of wheat,

With honey from the rock.

You who have wandered far from me,

Return to me, return to me.

You who have gathered close,

Stay near, stay near.

I am the fountain of living water."

Lord, you are our strength. You are our helper.

You are our life. You are our joy!

OPENING PRAYER

This morning, O God, your voice sounds into our lives again. We are grateful to hear your call, for on many mornings, we hear other voices—voices urging us to care only about ourselves; voices urging us to serve other gods: our work, our bank accounts, our egos, our peer groups, our ideologies. By the end of the week, we feel trapped in our anxiety, our work, our spending, our need for control, and our excuses. And then we hear your voice again, calling us to your healing care, to your spacious freedom, to your giving humility. We come to rest and be fed. Call us to your freeing love again. Feed us now, God of our strength. Amen.

HYMN "In Christ Alone"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Despite all the ways we speak of sin - failures, mistakes, intended acts, Scripture tells us that we are stubborn-hearted, wanting only our way. But if we pause to listen to God, if we open our mouths (and our hearts) to confess our sin, God will fill our emptiness with forgiveness and hope. Let us pray together, as we say,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

We are always uncomfortable, Watching God, when you notice how we want to sit in the seats of honor. We can be so proper, so good, so well-off, that it is easy to imagine we are superior to the poor. We are so busy completing our 'To Do' list each day, that we forget to do good when we have the chance.

Forgive us, Welcoming God. Fill our emptiness with your grace and humility that we would spend our lives alongside Jesus, our Lord and Savior, throwing a party for the poor, the damaged, the prisoner, the lost, the oppressed.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

This is the good news: after what God has done for us, what can anyone or any thing do to us? We are new people, graced by our loving God.

Forgiven, embraced, welcomed by our God, we will offer open hearts and serving hands to everyone we meet. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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 heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 112

1 Praise the Lord!

Happy are those who fear the Lord,
who greatly delight in his commandments.

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches are in their houses,
and their righteousness endures forever.

4 They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;
they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

5 It is well with those who deal generously and lend,

who conduct their affairs with justice.

6 For the righteous will never be moved;

they will be remembered forever.

7 They are not afraid of evil tidings;

their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.

8 Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;

in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

9 They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;

their righteousness endures forever;

their horn is exalted in honor.

10 The wicked see it and are angry;

they gnash their teeth and melt away;

the desire of the wicked comes to nothing.

ANTHEM “Deep River” Bob Patterson and Bonnie Griffith

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 14:1, 7-14, Hebrews 13:1-8

14 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. **8** “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, **9** and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. **10** But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. **11** For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. **13** But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. **14** And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

13 Let mutual affection continue. **2** Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. **3** Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. **4** Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. **5** Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." **6** So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. **8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

SERMON

Soliciting Celebrity

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

How does the idea of false intimacy and idolized celebrity resonate with the way that you live your life?

Have you ever 'idolized' anyone? Have you ever decided to overlook sinful behavior in this person because you looked up to them?

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Let us offer our gifts to God by faithfully fulfilling our vows and pledges to the ministry of this church.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we are offered opportunities to reach out to those who are in need of hope, healing, and friendship. This is why you pour out your blessings upon us, trusting that we will share from our abundance to bless others, even as we have been blessed. Receive the gifts we offer, multiply them, and use them in the work of grace and justice. In Jesus' 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 also be placed in dropbox located in the New Narthex)

OFFERTORY “One God” Jennifer Hall

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.

CLOSING RESPONSE “I Know Who Holds Tomorrow” Bob Patterson and Bonnie Griffith

CHARGE AND BENECTION

Practice humility and hospitality.

Invite the lowly to your table.

Honor your covenants.

Be content with what you have.

Love God and walk in God’s ways.

May the way we live offer praise to God,

Our helper and our strength.

And may God feed you with the finest wheat and the sweetest honey. Amen

POSTLUDE Bonnie Griffith

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