



## 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.

13th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 4th, 2022 10:00 a.m.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME “In the Potter’s Hand” Rebekah Ratza

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched us and known us.

**You know when we sit down and when we rise up; you discern our thoughts from far away.**

You search out our path and our lying down, and are acquainted with all our ways.

**Even before a word is on our tongues, O LORD, you know it completely.**

You hem us in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon us.

**Such knowledge is too wonderful for us; it is so high that we cannot attain it.**

For it was you who formed our inward parts; you knit us together in our mother's womb.

**We praise you, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that we know very well.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own. Help us to seek and be able to follow your will. May our prayers be joined with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith, that together we may glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

HYMN “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

### 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: Jeremiah 18:1-11

**18** The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: **2** “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.” **3** So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was

working at his wheel. **4** The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

**5** Then the word of the Lord came to me: **6** Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. **7** At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, **8** but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. **9** And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, **10** but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. **11** Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

**ANTHEM** "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place"

Bonnie Griffith & Rebekah Ratza

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Luke 14:25-33

**25** Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, **26** "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. **27** Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. **28** For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? **29** Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, **30** saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' **31** Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32** If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. **33** So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

**SERMON** Pottery Lessons

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Has God ever 'reshaped' your life so that He could accomplish something different with you?  
Does it feel like God is 'reshaping' your life now? In what way? Who can you talk to about it?

### OFFERING

from Psalm 116: 'What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? I will give what I have promised in the presence of all God's people.' Let us pray over our offerings today...

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of extravagant mercy, with hands outstretched you have poured out wonder and pleasure and delight, goodness and beauty and bounty. So take these offerings, we pray, as our protest against all that is evil and ugly and impoverished, trivial and wretched and tyrannical, in our world and in ourselves— and thus may we and others know ourselves to be blessed. 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 Original Medley by Morris Fulcher

## 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

Now let us hear the story of how this sacrament began. On the night on which Jesus was betrayed, he sat at supper with his disciples. While they were eating, he took a piece of bread, said a blessing, broke it, and gave it to them with the words, “This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.” Later he took the cup, saying, “This cup is God’s covenant, sealed with my blood. Drink from it, all of you, to remember me.”

***So now, following Jesus’ example and command, we take this bread and this cup, the ordinary things of the world, which Christ will use for extraordinary purposes. And as he said a prayer before sharing, let us do so too.***

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...Help us, our Father, to see behind these elements of bread and wine, the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Enable us to see your great love for us.

We thank you for this supper and seek to be built in faith through it. Help us to be rid of unrighteousness, we pray, in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray.

## 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:**

Nothing we are is hidden from God. When we were being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth, God's eyes beheld each of us. We cannot measure God's thoughts. We can not adequately compare God's power. God's Holiness is so far above even the best of us. Yet God has chosen to be with us in the body of Jesus Christ and in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Let us, together, be present to our Risen Lord in this moment.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

**There is no darkness in you, Father of Lights. Sin cannot exist in your presence. It is with trembling lips and quaking hands that we lay ourselves bare to your holiness. We have not loved according to the love we have received. We have not expressed kindness nor promoted mercy. We have not used our words to encourage and build each other up. Instead, we have torn apart others devouring them for our own pride and selfish entertainment.**

**Forgive us and remake us. Shine your holy light into our lives and dispel the darkness. Shape us into holy vessels of your love, peace and grace.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON:**

How is it that we might be saved?

**It is by grace that we are saved through faith.**

Is it the result of works?

**No. We cannot boast in our works, We are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works. Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Loving God, you made this world marvelous for us to enjoy.

You gave Jesus to be our Savior and friend and to bring us to you.

You sent your Spirit to make us one family in Christ.

For these gifts of your love we thank you,

and we join with angels and saints in this joyful hymn of praise:

[sung or spoken]

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

For your kindness to us and your goodness to all, we give you thanks.  
 We thank you that you showed your love by sending your Son,  
 who gave his life for us, and rose again from death,  
 and lives to pray for us for ever.  
 We thank you that he has taken away all that separates us from you  
 and has made us friends with you and with one another.  
 We thank you that he has brought us together at this table,  
 to strengthen us by his love.

## **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**

### **HYMN**

### **“How Great Thou Art”**

### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Someone asked Jesus, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “  
 ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This  
 is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as  
 yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be his glorious  
 name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

### **POSTLUDE**

**May the Peace of Christ be with you...**

**...And also with you!**

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