



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.

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 18, 2022 10:00 AM

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE “My Faith Looks Up to Thee *with Mozart*” Rebekah Ratza

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

We desire to live in God’s house and to seek God in his holy temple.

We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Teach us your ways and make straight our paths in this hour of worship and always.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you pour out the Spirit of grace and love. Deliver us from cold hearts and wandering thoughts, that with steady minds and burning zeal we may worship you in spirit and truth. Amen.

HYMN **(INSERT) “Glorious Is Thy Name”**

CALL TO CONFESSION:

It is all too easy to look at our lives and complain. It is all too easy to look at our society and shout ‘injustice’! It is all too easy to look at our neighbor and cry ‘sinner’! In this moment let us allow the log to fall from our own eye and recall that transformation begins within our own hearts by the mercy and power of Jesus.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION based on Psalm 70 (In Unison)

Do not remember against us the iniquities of our ancestors; let your compassion come speedily to meet us, for our sins have brought us very low.

We cry out for justice, yet mistreat our neighbors. We cry out for peace, yet curse those around us. We cry out for leadership, for virtue and for success, and then sit back not willing to lift a finger.

Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins, for your name's sake. Hear our groans and rescue us according to your great power. Preserve us with your forgiving mercy. Gather your sheep in comforting pastures so that we might give you thanks forever and from generation to generation recount your praise.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Jeremiah 9:23-24; Thus says the Lord: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom; do not let the mighty boast in their might; do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth; but let those who boast boast in this, that they understand and know me, that I am the Lord; I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord.

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 22:3-5

ANTHEM "Creation Hymn in Classic Style"

Chancel Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 22:34-40

SERMON

Elder Larry Zimble

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Give to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him.

We will sacrifice a thank offering to God and call on the name of the Lord. We will fulfill our vows to the Lord, in the presence of all God's people.

Let each of us use whatever gift we have received, faithfully sharing God's grace in many forms.

Freely we have received; freely we will give.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us— our selves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us— Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 *with* Sheep May Safely Graze” Rebekah Ratza

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.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

As you prepare to leave this place, hear now God's invitation to a life of Christian discipleship.

God has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Go in love, peace and fellowship of the Triune God.

POSTLUDE "Glorious Is Thy Name"

Rebekah Ratza

Peace be with you!

...and also with you!