



## 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.

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 25, 2022 10:00 AM

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### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE** Bonnie Griffith

### WELCOME

**CALL TO WORSHIP** from Psalm 91

91:1 You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

**91:2 will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."**

91:3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;

**91:4 he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**

91:5 You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,

**91:6 or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.**

91:14 Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

**91:15 When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.**

91:16 With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

### 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 PH #612** "We Praise You, O God"

### CALL TO CONFESSION:

**Let us come together to confess who we are as a people who don't have it all together. Everyone of us has fallen short. Let us also come together to confess who God is: Merciful, forgiving and gracious to us.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison) from Amos 6

**Many times, O Lord, we have felt at ease and secure when your commissioning Spirit was troubling our waters. We have been found napping when there was work to do. We have attended BBQs rather than the needs of the poor and suffering. We sang idle songs instead of worshiping you in Spirit and in Truth. We bickered over which wine is best when people suffer from thirst. We apply makeup to our own lives and ignore those who suffer from open wounds.**

**We know that our ways lead into exile. Gather us in Lord. Renew your covenant with us and create in us clean hearts, clear eyes and willing feet. Welcome us home through your merciful forgiveness and make us a family that shares who you are with the world.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON: from Psalm 146**

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.  
 When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.  
 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,  
 Let us praise the LORD as long as we live; let us sing praises to God with obedient lives!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Heavenly Father, inject into this moment a holy urgency. May we read and hear your word spoken to us today. May our hearts be well tilled earth for the seeds of your truth. May these seeds grow into fruitful Lives to your glory. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** Psalm 141:1-4

“I call to you Lord, come quickly to me;  
 Hear me when I call to you.  
 May my prayer be set before you like incense;  
 May the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.  
 Set a guard over my mouth, Lord;  
 Keep watch over the door of my lips.  
 Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil  
 So that I take part in wicked deeds  
 Along with those who are evildoers;  
 Do not let me eat their delicacies.”

**ANTHEM** Great is Thy Faithfulness

Bob Patterson and Bonnie Griffith

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Revelation 8:1-5

“When he opened the seventh seal,  
 There was silence in heaven for about half an hour.  
 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God,  
 And seven trumpets were given to them.  
 Another angel, who had a golden censer,  
 came and stood at the altar.  
 He was given much incense to offer,  
 with the prayers of all God’s people,  
 On the golden altar in front of the throne.  
 The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of God’s people, went up before God from the  
 angel’s hand.  
 Then the angel took the censer,  
 Filled it with fire from the altar,  
 And hurled it on the earth;

And there came peals of thunder, rumblings,  
Flashes of lightning and an earthquake”

**SERMON** The Book of Revelation for Non-theologians: Challenge and Hope Deacon Jennifer Maclean

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What is the Spirit saying to you right now?

Who can you tell?

### BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

#### OFFERING

The willingness to give is a sign of life. The fruit tree gives of its fruit, and we know it is alive. When it no longer gives, we know real life has gone out of it. The heart that hoards the blessings of God is no longer alive with spiritual power. To give is to live.

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Almighty and most merciful God, from you comes every good and perfect gift. We give you praise and thanks for all your mercies. Your goodness has created us, your bounty has sustained us, your discipline has chastened us, your patience has borne with us, your love has redeemed us. Give us a heart to love and serve you, and enable us to show our thankfulness for all your goodness and mercy by giving up ourselves to your service and cheerfully submitting in all things to your blessed will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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

“Give Me Jesus”

Bob Patterson & 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 PH #661** “His Eye is on the Sparrow”

**CHARGE AND BLESSING** based on Colossians 3:12-14

As God’s own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience,  
forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you,  
and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

**POSTLUDE** Rebekah Ratza

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