



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.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

17th Sunday after Pentecost
October 2, 2022 10:00 AM

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT “Still, My Soul, Be Still”

Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP Lamentations 3:20-26

3:20 My soul continually thinks of my affliction and is bowed down within me.

3:21 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:

3:22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end;

3:23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

3:24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

3:25 The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

3:26 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

OPENING PRAYER

God of all the ages, you have revealed your grace in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we wait patiently on your mercies, strengthen us to live in your justice, that with open hearts we may hear and accomplish your will, through Christ, who lights the way to life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN “The Power of the Cross”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We thank you dear God, for the Gospel that your scriptures are a witness to. It is pure light bringing life and eternity into this very room. As we hear your word today, may we hear your holy calling, not according to our works but according to your own purpose and grace. Make us faithful to follow. Amen.

FIRST READING Revelation 4

ANTHEM “Surely He Has Borne Our Sorrows”

Chancel Choir

SECOND READING Revelation 5

SERMON Revelation: The Magnitude of God

Pastor David Eshleman

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

How will you prepare for being in the presence of the one who sits upon the throne of heaven?

OFFERING

No one gives oneself freely and willingly to God's service unless, having tasted the Father's love, that one is drawn in love and worships God in return.

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 also be placed in dropbox located in the New Narthex)

OFFERTORY Bread of Life

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.***

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Christ's table is wide, and his welcome is for all. Jesus dined with sinners and saints, with farmhands and foreigners, with disciples and doubters, with children and cherished friends, with the outcast and the outspoken, with lepers and loved ones. And just as he ate at others' tables, when Christ set his banquet table, he welcomed us all, too.

As we gather around Christ's table, we are united with all of God's beloved across the world through the love and grace made known in bread broken and cup passed. So come to the table where we witness Christ's love and peace for all.

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION *From 2 Timothy 1:1–14*

God's grace was given to us in Christ before the ages began. In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. Trusting in Christ's mercy that never ends, let us with honesty confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Gracious Lord, you created the whole world and called it good, but we look out at your world and see division and suffering. You call us to maintain the unity of spirit in the bond of peace, but we choose division over diversity, confrontation over civility, conflict over peace born from justice. You call us to love the least of these among us, but we hear the cries of the oppressed and choose our own comfort.

We allow senseless suffering rather than sacrifice for our neighbors. Forgive us. Grant us fresh vision to see one another as siblings in Christ. Rekindle in us your gifts — the spirit of power, love and self-discipline — that with faith in Christ, we might be made new and be part of bringing forth your peaceable kingdom.

DECLARATION OF PARDON *From Lamentations 3:22–23*

We call to mind your promises and therefore we find hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies are new every morning. Believe the good news. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION PRAYER

We thank you O God, for refreshing us at your holy table. We thank you for our brothers and sisters in this community and around the world. May we always be reminded to see the world through Christ's eyes, and to work for a time when all may share together at Your table. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

CLOSING HYMN There is a Higher Throne

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

God be in your head and in your understanding.

God be in your eyes and in your looking.

God be in your mouth and in your speaking.

God be in your heart and in your thinking.

God be at your end and at your departing.

POSTLUDE

May the Peace of Christ be with you...

...And also with you!
