



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.

18th Sunday after Pentecost

October 9, 2022 10:00 AM

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Cheryl Kopplin

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 46:4-7)

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God

The holy habitation of the Most High

God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved

God will help it when the morning dawns

The nations rage, the kingdoms totter

He utters His voice, the Earth melts

The Lord of Hosts is with us

The God of Jacob is our refuge.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, for each one who leads us in worship today,
we pray that they may be so filled with your Spirit
that they will clearly reflect the glory of Christ in all they say and do.
We pray that everyone in this place will know you are with us
and be drawn to bring you all honor and praise. Amen.

HYMN #316 **Breath on me. Breath of God**

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Like God's ancient people, we are ready to receive the truth about God when we finally admit the truth about ourselves. I suppose God could have proclaimed his name and character to the Israelites at the Passover when the firstborn throughout Egypt died, or as they plundered the wealth of their slave masters, or as they passed through the sea on dry ground, or as they watched the waters drowned Pharaoh's armies. But instead, he waited until the people understood their own evil, not just the evil of their oppressors.

It is the trials, struggles, losses, and often the self-inflicted pain of our sin that opens us to discover the true nature of God. Humility, not victory, is what makes us receptive to the most profound revelations about God's character.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON: —John 3:16-17, NRSV

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish but may have eternal life.
Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world
to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 1:1-4, 31

1 When God began to create] the heavens and the earth, **2** the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. **3** Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4** And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness.

31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

ANTHEM “Air on Holy, Holy, Holy”

Handbells Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Revelation 21:1-5

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **2** And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.
 He will dwell with them;
 they will be his peoples,
 and God himself will be with them and be their God;
 4 he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
 Death will be no more;
 mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
 For the first things have passed away.”

5 And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

SERMON

The Nature of Heaven

Jan Foster

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

How will you spend eternity today, this week?

Who needs to hear words of hope from you?

HYMN

There is a Higher Throne

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING—from 1 John 3:17-18, NRSV

How does God’s love abide in anyone
 who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister
 in need and yet refuses to help?
 Dear children, let us love,
 not in word or speech,
 but also in truth and action.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(Let us pray)

O Mighty One,
 you have done great things for us,
 and holy is your name.
 Bless all we offer you—
 our selves, our time, and our possessions—
 that through us your grace and favor
 may be made known to all the world,
 for the sake of Jesus Christ,
 our Redeemer. 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 Cheryl Kopplin

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.

Sunday School Bell Ringers

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION —from Revelation 1:5-6, NRSV

To Jesus Christ, who loves us
and freed us from our sins by his blood
and made us to be a kingdom,
priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

POSTLUDE When We All Get to Heaven Rebekah Ratza

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