



## 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.

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 23, 2022 10:00 AM

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### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**2 My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

3 Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

**4 Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

5 Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**6 As they go through the valley of Baca,  
they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.**

7 They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

#### OPENING PRAYER

Pour out your Spirit upon us as we gather, God of our salvation: so your grace might strengthen us for service; so your peace might calm our troubled souls; so your hope might mend our broken hearts. In Jesus' strong name we pray, Amen.

#### MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

**HYMN PH #366** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#### CALL TO CONFESSION:

God is the God of thieves and rogues, adulterers, tax collectors, and even religious leaders. We know Him to be merciful to us in our sin and merciful in our righteousness, so that the humble may be lifted up and the haughty brought low. Let us learn to Trust in God alone for the sake of Christ our Savior as we pray together.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**Sovereign God, we confess that we have not turned away from sin. We celebrate our achievements and look down on our neighbors. We boast about our virtues and deny the worth**

**of others. Forgive us, God of grace. Be merciful to us, for we are indeed sinners in great need of redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON:**

**Forgiven and healed, we open ourselves to the grace, the peace, the hope offered to us through our loving God. This is the good news we have received!**

**Graced and blessed, we are able to live our lives for others, taking them by the hand to reach that finish line called the Kingdom. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God of Jesus Christ, give us a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Christ, so that the eyes of our hearts might be enlightened. Help us to know the hope to which you have called us, the riches of the glorious inheritance in the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of your power at work in us. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Joel 2:23-32**

23 O children of Zion, be glad,  
and rejoice in the Lord your God,  
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;  
he has poured down for you abundant rain,  
the early and the later rain, as before.

24 The threshing floors shall be full of grain;  
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

25 I will repay you for the years  
that the swarming locust has eaten,  
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,  
my great army that I sent against you.

26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied  
and praise the name of the Lord your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

27 You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel  
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.  
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

28 Then afterward  
I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
your old men shall dream dreams,  
and your young men shall see visions.

29 Even on the male and female slaves,  
in those days I will pour out my spirit. 30 I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth,  
blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to  
blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. 32 Then everyone who calls on the name

of the Lord shall be saved, for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

**ANTHEM**

“The Splendor of His Holiness”

Michelle Carter, Kate Kirkey, Cathy Hollopeter, Rhonda Pierce

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Revelation 10:1-11

10 And I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his head; his face was like the sun and his legs like pillars of fire. 2 He held a little scroll open in his hand. Setting his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, 3 he gave a great shout, like a lion roaring. And when he shouted, the seven thunders sounded. 4 And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down.” 5 Then the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and the land raised his right hand to heaven

6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it: “There will be no more delay, 7 but in the days when the seventh angel is to blow his trumpet, the mystery of God will be fulfilled, as he announced to his servants the prophets.”

8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, “Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” 9 So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll, and he said to me, “Take it and eat; it will be bitter to your stomach but sweet as honey in your mouth.” 10 So I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it; it was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter.

11 Then they said to me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.”

**SERMON**      The Angel with a little Scroll

Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

Is prophesy disturbing to you? Why or why not?

In what way is the Gospel disturbing to you? To the world?

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

**OFFERING**

If our lives, our love, our gifts are not shared with others, the words we offer in prayer and praise are hollow. Let us give wisely and worshipfully so that everything we do and say will honor our God.

(Let us pray)

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Receive what we offer, Holy God, and bless these gifts in the work of your kingdom which values the people we ridicule, lifts up those we have stepped over, and brings hope and healing to all. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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**

“God Exalted Him”

Michelle Carter, Kate Kirkey, Cathy Hollopeter, Rhonda Pierce

**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**

Trusting in the power of God to deliver us, let us make our prayers of intercession for all, saying:  
God our Savior, ‘hear our prayer’,

We pray for our church...

Deliver us from the power of evil and strengthen us to serve you, all for the glory of your eternal realm. God our Savior, ‘hear our prayer’.

We pray for the world...

Pour out your Spirit on all flesh, so that the people of every nation may share visions and dreams of peace. God our Savior, ‘hear our prayer’.

We pray for this community...

Let this be your dwelling place--where even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for her young. God our Savior, ‘hear our prayer’.

We pray for loved ones...

Be merciful to the sick and suffering. Let your peace and goodness be their comfort and strength. God our Savior, ‘hear our prayer’.

Merciful and mighty God, as you are one, make us one with you through Jesus Christ, whom you have sent to redeem us, and taught us to pray, saying...

**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 #93** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (stanza 2)

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** From Revelation 5:12-13

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing! And every creature—in heaven, on earth, under the earth, in the sea, and all that is in them—will sing:

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be praise, honor, glory, and ruling power forever and ever!”

Go out into the world, children of the kingdom, with your mouths full of praise and your heart full of peace.

**POSTLUDE** “Worthy is the Lamb”

Rebekah Ratza

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