



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.

Christ the King Sunday
November 20, 2022 10:00 AM

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE "Give Thanks" Rebekah Ratza

WELCOME

INTROIT "Behold Our God" Chancel Choir Ladies

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

6 The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts.

7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

8 Come, behold the works of the Lord; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

10 "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth."

11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, Pour out your Spirit so that we, empty, might be filled with the plenty of your grace.

Strengthen us so we might bring healing to a world shattered by violence and despair. We long for hope, fill our lives to overflowing with your love and compassion, so that we might pour ourselves out for the poor and marginalized. Amen.

HYMN BH #551, PH #367 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

CALL TO CONFESSION:

We wonder what's for lunch, we worry about work tomorrow, we fret about the test that is coming up; for some of us it's at school, for some of us it's at the Doctor's office. So much worry, so much time wasted over things we cannot control. The One who showers earth with rain, who places the stars in the autumn sky, is the same One who wraps mercy tight around you, who feeds us on healing and hope. Let us confess how our worries keep us from trusting the God who hears us and restores us to new life. Please join me as we pray,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Because we live in this modern, tech-driven, twittering age, we often forget what you have done for us, God of every blessing. We pat ourselves on the back for our ability to learn new computer skills, but have forgotten that life is more than a machine. We have more than we could ever use yet, like squirrels, store up more and more. Our faith is often pushed to the back of the closet, to make room for all the fears we wear so easily.

Forgive us, Restorer of life. As you clothe us with your grace and mercy, may we share with those who have so little. As our hearts overflow with your love and wonder, may we offer them as gifts to everyone we meet. As you feed us with your joy and hope, may we welcome to the Table all those whose lives are filled with tears and pain. As we gather with family and friends during this season, may we continue to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

This is the good news: as God dresses creation in wonder, so you will be clothed in grace; as God pours out abundance upon the earth, so you will be blessed with peace and joy.

We don't say it often enough, but thanks be to God for healing, for life, for wonder, for mercy. We are blessed, for we are forgiven. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 23:1-6

23 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. **2** Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. **3** Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. **4** I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

5 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. **6** In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

ANTHEM

"We Gather Together"

Chancel Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Colossians 1:11-20

11 May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. **13** He has rescued us from the power of darkness and

transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, **16** for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

SERMON

King Jesus

Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What does it mean to you to call Jesus ‘King’?

Is it challenging to suggest that Jesus expresses his royalty through self-sacrifice?

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Giving is not the result of abundance. It is the consequence of trust in a God who lavishes us with love. Let us offer our gifts and fulfill our pledges to God’s glory.

(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)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray:

Our tables groan with too much food, so may our gifts feed the hungry;

we welcome family into our homes, so may we embrace the lonely;

we sleep in warm beds at night, so may we shelter the homeless;

we are blessed with more than we need, so may our gifts fill the emptiness of our sisters and brothers in need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY

“Now Thank We All Our God”

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.

HYMN BH#151, PH#268

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go out into the world in peace;
 have courage;
 hold on to what is good;
 return no one evil for evil;
 strengthen the fainthearted;
 support the weak, and help the suffering;
 honor all people;
 love and serve the Lord,
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

POSTLUDE

“Toccata on *Thaxted*”

Rebekah Ratza

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

Flowers on the Communion Table in loving memory of their parents Foster & Doris Allen and Frank & Annabel Wilcott given by Tom & Francis Allen.