



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.

2nd Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2022 10:00 AM

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Rebekah Ratza

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

For God is with us, smiling upon us with love.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

For Christ has saved us from our enemies, our sins, and our fears.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

For God's Spirit shines upon us, giving light for our darkness.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel!

Let us worship God together.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

What is God like?

God is like a gardener, patient and nurturing. God plants, waters, weeds, and fertilizes the earth until every good thing on it seeks the nourishing sun and grows. The God who makes us feel brave is the God who showers us with love. Today, we light the first two Advent candles: the candle of hope and the candle of love.

This light is meant to remind us of the love that God has for us.

Jesus showed us God's perfect love. He is God's love in human form. Love is patient, love is kind and envies no one.

Love is never boastful or conceited or rude or selfish. Love is not quick to take offense, it keeps no record of wrongs. It doesn't gloat over people's troubles, but rejoices in the right, the good and the true.

There is nothing that love cannot face. Love never ends.

We light this candle today to remind us of how God's perfect love is found in Jesus.

The God who is there when you feel safe, brave, and loved is here with you now. Grace and peace to you from our God.

HYMN BH #41PH#133 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God who is with us, guide us by your Word. Help us to again receive you in the flesh.
May the promised Messiah lead us into all wisdom and truth. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

- 1** A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- 2** The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- 3** His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
- 4** but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5** Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- 6** The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- 7** The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8** The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.
- 9** They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
- 10** On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of
him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

ANTHEM “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Handbells Choir

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. **19** Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. **20** But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **22** All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” **24** When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife **25** but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

SERMON Untangle: Finding Peace in Our Hurried State

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

When was the last time you felt at peace?

Do you need to make peace or receive it?

OFFERING

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. Let us pray together...

(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

Holy One, this Advent season we wait with love, And we give with love. Love for you, our God; Love for your beautiful people. Receive these generous offerings, And use them for your works of love in our world. Amen.

OFFERTORY “Angels We have Heard on High”

Bob Chappelle

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

Friends, the table is set for our special meal.
There is bread and wine ready to be shared.
This meal helps us remember Jesus
because he shared meals just like this with his friends.
And as we get ready to celebrate Jesus coming into our world at Christmas,
we look forward to sharing this meal with Jesus when he comes again.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O Immanuel,
child of promise and sign of hope,
you come from a distance far beyond our reach,
yet are closer to us than we are to ourselves:
remain with us in our own days of expectation,
that we may give birth to what is just, true, beautiful, and good—
through the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
abides with us, one God now and forever. Amen.

O Wisdom,
your words uttered in the beginning
generated a world of beauty and goodness,
giving purpose and value to each creature;
instruct us in the way of prudence,
that we may nurture the world with justice and joy.
Help us to resist evil and to obey you,
so that we may walk in your ways and
the beauty of your creation may flourish—
through the one whom we know as the Wisdom of the ages,
even Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O Lord of might,
master of the universe and ruler of the house of Israel,
your mighty acts have rescued remnants of your people
from the midst of slavery, exile, war, and holocaust:
raise your scepter over us, that your saving rule
may be extended to all people in all places—
for the sake of him who we know as Lord of all,
even Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

O Root of Jesse,
you reach deep down into the darkness of the earth
and stir the world's longings for deliverance and hope:

raise up within our own lives
 a spirit of courage and strength, of wisdom and insight,
 that we may do your work for the coming of your kingdom—
 through the merits of the one we know as the beginning of the ages,
 even Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O Key of David and throne of glory,
 you open the way to the future and no one closes;
 you close the way to the past and no one opens.
 Release us and all your people from the oppressions of the past,
 that we may face the future with boldness and purpose—
 through the merits of the Son of David, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

O Rising Dawn,
 you shine with warm brightness and clean freshness,
 chasing the fearsome shadows of the night away:
 enlighten the lives of your people with visions of shalom
 until you bring all things into the harmony of your kingdom—
 for the sake of him we call the light of the world, Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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:

Trusting God is simple, but also hard. It is difficult to have childlike faith. Instead we want to be in charge of our own destinies by getting things right, by having all the right answers. But God is not concerned about us thinking all the right things or even doing all the right things. God longs for us to love and trust. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God, we love you and we trust you—or at least we try to love and trust. Sometimes it is easier to say we trust you when we are really relying on ourselves. It is easier to make following you a mental exercise instead of a way of life. Forgive us. Help us to change. Give us the faith of a child, the trust a young one has in her parents' love, all so we can love your world even better. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

From Isaiah 49:15 “Can a Mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!”

Our God is the faithful one, and worthy of our trust, God forgives us and renews us. Because God loves us and forgives us, we live for God.

Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God, giving you thanks is the right thing to do because you made us, the world, and everything in it.

All the good things we see come from you.

You have always loved us, but people have not always loved you.

So you sent Jesus into our world as a child to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again.

Consecration

Lord, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And as we partake may we remember Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you and is alive forever.

May your Spirit make our hearts glad to share that life and desire to live in him.

Help us care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us.

Until Christ comes again, with all your people in every time and every land we worship you and say "Amen."

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

God, we thank you that on the night before Jesus died Christ shared a meal with his friends.

There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God.

He broke it into pieces and gave it to them.

"This is my body," he said.

"Do this, and remember me." Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you.

He shared it with them and said, "This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and remember me."

Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you.

He shared it with them and said, "This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and remember me."

Communion Prayer:

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and lift blind eyes to sight,

to loose the chains that bind
 and claim your blessing for all people.
 Keep us faithful in your service
 until Christ comes in final victory
 and we shall feast with all your saints
 in the joy of your eternal realm.
 Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
 now and forever. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

MUSIC RESPONSE “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” Sunday School Bell Ringers

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION —1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, NRSV

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love
 for one another and for all,
 just as we abound in love for you.
 And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
 that you may be blameless before our God and Father
 at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

POSTLUDE Angels Medley Rebekah Ratza

May the Peace of Christ be with you...

...And also with you!
