

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.

Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord Sunday
January 8, 2023 10:00 a.m.



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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE We Three Kings

Rebekah Ratza

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.

We long for a light to guide us.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy.

We long for God's joy in our lives.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

He is named Emmanuel:

God with us.

**In this tiny baby, this vulnerable child,
we find our light, our joy, our comfort.**

Joy to the World! The Lord is come!

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal Lord, as we gather in worship may we focus more fully on your presence. Help us to listen to your Spirit so we too can hear your gracious words of welcome, "Come, follow me, the kingdom of God is near." Open our hearts and enliven our faith that we might follow you in our worship and witness now and every day this week. In Jesus' strong and tender name. Amen!

HYMN Joy to the World!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dear people of God, use this silence to reflect upon and review your relationship with God. Perhaps today you sense God very closely, if so celebrate and praise God for this friendship. Or perhaps today you realize that you are quite distant from God, if so, consider with the Holy Spirit's help, what has caused this separation and what steps you can take to renew your communion with God. Then again

some of us today may be confused and not have any idea where we are with God, if so invite God to enlighten you and help you know how much God truly delights in you.

Almighty and Gracious God, on this Epiphany we are confronted once again with the Jesus Christ, the light of the world. We pause amidst all our words and singing to be quiet before you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (silent reflection)

DECLARATION OF PARDON (Romans 6:5, 11; 8:1)

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, fling open the shutters of our souls with your Holy Spirit so the radiance of your Scriptures may shine into our hearts with the illuminating knowledge of your glory and Christ's presence. Hear us and guide us as we pray in Jesus' powerful name. Amen!

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 42

As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.

When shall I come and behold
the face of God?

3 My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
'Where is your God?'

4 These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.

5 Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help **6** and my God.

My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.

7 Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows

have gone over me.

8 By day the Lord commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

9 I say to God, my rock,
‘Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?’

10 As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
‘Where is your God?’

11 Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

ANTHEM Go, Tell it on the Mountain

Bob Chappelle & Cheryl Kopplin

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Philippians 4:4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. **5** Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **6** Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. **9** Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

SERMON “Fear of an Uncertain Future”

Pastor Lindsey Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What can we do when we find ourselves paralyzed by anticipatory anxiety?

How can you know you can rely on God’s promises?

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

(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 be placed in dropbox located in the New Narthex)

