



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.

Christmas Day

December 25, 2022 10:00 AM

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE	“Ding Dong Merrily on High”	Rebekah Ratza
	“He is Born, the Divine Christ Child”	Rebekah Ratza
	“Joy to the World with the Hallelujah Chorus”	Rebekah Ratza

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this day, let us not be silent.

Let us proclaim what God has done.

For a child has been born to us:

The Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We know that God is:

Kind

Forgiving

Slow to get angry

Quick to be glad

Happy when we tell the truth

And sad when things are unfair.

We know who God is because Jesus came to live among us.

We know that God is these things because we have seen Jesus do these things. As we light the candles of hope, love, joy, peace and a candle for Jesus, may we follow in Jesus' way and reflect the light of God in our lives.

OPENING PRAYER

Be near us, Lord Jesus, we ask you to stay close by us forever and love us, we pray.

Immanuel, we invite you to draw near and dwell with us.

Surround us with your tender, caring presence,

that what we say and do in worship

might prepare us to live forever with you in heaven.

In your powerful name we pray. Amen.

HYMN PH #134, BH #40 "Joy to the World"

CALL TO CONFESSION:

When Jesus was born of the virgin Mary,
he became like us in all things but sin.
May we who have been reborn in him
be free from our sinful ways.
Let us confess our sin to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**O God, in the beginning you spoke,
and creation was born, the object of your loving care.
In the fullness of time you spoke,
and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love.
We wonder at the miracle of creation;
we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation.
Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith,
empty of hope, lacking in love.
This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again.
We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

I bring you good news of great joy
that will be for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is Christ the Lord.
-Luke 2:10-11, NIV

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, the shepherds of old were full of your praises, saying that all they had heard and seen was mirrored by what they had been told. Move among us now with your Holy Spirit, that we too might hear and experience the wonder and joy of the living Word as we seek to welcome the written Word into our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 52:7-10

7 How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices;
 together they shout for joy,
 for in plain sight they see
 the return of the Lord to Zion.
9 Break forth; shout together for joy,
 you ruins of Jerusalem,
 for the Lord has comforted his people;
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.
10 The Lord has bared his holy arm
 before the eyes of all the nations,
 and all the ends of the earth shall see
 the salvation of our God.

HYMN “For Unto Us a Child is Born” (See Slides)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-12

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. **3** He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,
 “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”?
 Or again,

“I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
 “Let all God’s angels worship him.”

7 Of the angels he says,
 “He makes his angels winds and his servants flames of fire.”

8 But of the Son he says,
 “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;
 therefore God, your God, has anointed you
 with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

10 And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands;

11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing;

12 like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same, and your years will never end.”

SERMON God has Spoken by His Son

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What does Jesus being born as a baby mean to you?

What do you suppose it means to God?

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

What can I give him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
 If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
 Yet what I can, I give him,
 give him my heart. Let us offer our gifts to the Lord. Let us pray...

(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

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts,
 signs of your goodness and mercy.
 Receive them with our gratitude,
 that through us all people may know
 the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen.

OFFERTORY/HYMN PH #133, BH #41 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**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 PH #132, BH #28

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go now into the world,
carrying Christmas with you into everyday life.
Open the inn within you and make room for that gift of gifts,
even our Lord Jesus Christ.
O God, you have caused this holy day
to shine with the brightness of the true light:
Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that light on earth,
may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven,
where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns,
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Rebekah Ratza

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