



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 after Epiphany
January 15, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE #402 How Lovely, Lord

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, let us worship the Lord our God, whose love quenches our thirst.

We are parched and thirsty for God's healing word.

Let us praise God who is with us always.

We seek the one who will not desert us.

Let us open our hearts to God who calls us by name.

We come, seeking a reconciled relationship with God.

OPENING PRAYER

We see light, hope, and joy;

We bring heart, soul, mind, and body;

We share blessings and fears;

We bring faith and doubt.

With all that we are and all that we have, let us worship God.

HYMN PH #104 BH #11 "Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

CALL TO CONFESSION

With unsettled questions in our hearts, with the mystery of God enshrouding us, acknowledging that we who were lost are now found and loved, let us enter a time of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Life is sometimes like a giant spider web. We seem to get caught and entangled in its threads, not knowing which way to turn or how to extricate ourselves from the dilemmas in which we are trapped. Lord, you know that so many of these dilemmas and burdens are of our own creation, coming out of our stubbornness and fear. We find it much easier to turn our back on people in need, or just write a check and hope that the problems go away.

Forgive us when we decide not to become involved in the solution, when we would rather back off from helping and turn and run for cover. Give us an extra measure of courage and strength along with your forgiving love, that we may again place our whole trust in you. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Let go of the demons that bind you in sorrow. Christ has broken those bands and reaches out in love for you. Receive God's loving blessings, for they are given especially for you. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Open our hearts today, O Lord, to feel the powerful strength and love you have for us. Help us to listen, not only with our ears, but with our spirits for your words of compassion and healing. Enable us to become more faithful disciples for you; for we ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 37:1-24

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- 1 Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
- 2 for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.
- 3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
- 4 Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him, and he will act.
- 6 He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.
- 8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- 9 For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.
- 10 Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.
- 11 But the meek shall inherit the land,
and delight in abundant prosperity.
- 12 The wicked plot against the righteous,
and gnash their teeth at them;
- 13 but the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for he sees that their day is coming.
- 14 The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows
to bring down the poor and needy,
to kill those who walk uprightly;
- 15 their sword shall enter their own heart,
and their bows shall be broken.
- 16 Better is a little that the righteous person has
than the abundance of many wicked.
- 17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,

but the Lord upholds the righteous.
 18 The Lord knows the days of the blameless,
 and their heritage will abide forever;
 19 they are not put to shame in evil times,
 in the days of famine they have abundance.
 20 But the wicked perish,
 and the enemies of the Lord are like the glory of the pastures;
 they vanish—like smoke they vanish away.
 21 The wicked borrow, and do not pay back,
 but the righteous are generous and keep giving;
 22 for those blessed by the Lord shall inherit the land,
 but those cursed by him shall be cut off.
 23 Our steps are made firm by the Lord,
 when he delights in our way;
 24 though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,
 for the Lord holds us by the hand.

SONG By The Waters of Babylon (Psalm 137)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Luke 12:22-34

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22 He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. **23** For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. **24** Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! **25** And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? **26** If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? **27** Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. **28** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! **29** And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. **30** For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. **31** Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

SERMON “Fear of Financial Loss”

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)

You are an abundant God and out of Your great mercy you have given us so much. We give you this offering today. With it we worship You and give our whole selves to You. Please now take it and use it for Your kingdom and Your glory. Amen.

OFFERTORY

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 #463 BH #361

“How Firm a Foundation”

CHARGE AND BLESSING Numbers 6:24-26

May the Lord bless you and keep you;

May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

May the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

POSTLUDE

Peace be with you!

...and also with you!