



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.

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

January 22nd, 2023 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT PH#71 “Surely, It is God Who Saves Me”

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 27

4 One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek: to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

6 Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

8 “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

OPENING PRAYER

Living God, with your Holy Spirit you anointed Jesus of Nazareth to proclaim the time of your favor. Help us to proclaim Christ--so that the oppressed may be free, the blind may recover their sight, the captives may find release, and the poor may hear good news; through Christ, your Word fulfilled. Amen.

HYMN PH#12 “Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise”

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we come to God with open hearts and honest words, we will not be pushed away, but wrapped in God's loving and forgiving embrace. I invite you to join me as we confess our lives to God, praying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God our Redeemer, we confess that our lives do not reflect your glory. You offer us your living Word, but we do not listen to your voice. You call us to be one in your Spirit, but foster division in Christ's body.

Forgive us, God of grace. Open our hearts again this day to the liberating truth of your Word and the life-giving power of your Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

God is our help, so why should we be afraid?

God keeps us safe, there is nothing to dread!

This is good news for all of us.

Sheltered in God's gracious heart of mercy and love, we raise shouts of joy: thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God in Heaven, You appeal to us to set aside all that divides us, so we might be one.

You send us to proclaim good news, not with silver-tongued sophistication but with simple words: justice, hope, grace, and love, which bring light to the shadows. Speak to us through your scripture today so that we might proclaim your word to the world. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 49:14-18

14 But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me;
my Lord has forgotten me."

15 Can a woman forget her nursing child
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
Even these might forget,
yet I will not forget you.

16 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;
your walls are continually before me.

17 Your builders outdo your destroyers,
and those who laid you waste go away from you.

18 Lift up your eyes all around and see;
they all gather; they come to you.

As I live, says the Lord,
you shall put all of them on like an ornament,
and like a bride you shall bind them on.

ANTHEM PH #177 "I will come to You (You are Mine)"

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON John 10:27-30

27 My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 The Father and I are one."

SERMON The Fear of Not being a Christian

Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you ever thought that you could upset God so much that God might abandon you?

What does it mean to you that no-one can snatch us out of Jesus' hand?

HYMN PH #59 "The Steadfast Love of the Lord"

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)

Use our gifts, Loving God, so others might not be scared by life; so they may be sheltered in the blanket of your grace; so they might find a home with us as their family. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY "They Will Know We are Christians by Our Love"

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

Joining our hearts and minds in prayer, let us call on the name of the Lord, saying:

O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for the church...

Teach us to be one body in Christ our Lord, with all the members working together and striving for the greater gift of love. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for the world...

Bring good news, release, and freedom to the poor, captives, and oppressed. Give new hope and vision to all. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for our community...

Lead us, by the wisdom of your Word, to go forth in mission to our neighbors, feeding the hungry with the bread of life. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

We pray for loved ones...

Give us gifts of healing and compassion to help those who are hurting and honor those who suffer shame. O God of grace, **bless us with peace.**

Mighty God, strengthen your people so that we may live in the world as those you have chosen and called. We now join our voices together in the pray your Son taught his disciples to pray:

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 #726 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Let us take God's light into the world.

We will go out together, trusting each other and putting our faith in Jesus.

Let us go to gather the burdens of others.

We will take away their fears and offer them to Jesus, who helps everyone in every moment.

Let us go to live in the Spirit's presence.

We will follow the Spirit into the peace which is offered to all of God's people.

POSTLUDE

Peace be with you!

...and also with you!