



## 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.

4th Sunday after Epiphany

January 29th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

INTROIT #411 “God is Here Today”

CALL TO WORSHIP from 1 Corinthians 13

1 If we speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, we are noisy gongs or clanging cymbals.

**2 And if we have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if we have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, we are nothing.**

3 If we give away all our possessions and if we hand over our bodies so that we may boast but do not have love, we gain nothing.

**13 Faith, Hope, and Love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.**

May the Love of God fill us today with faith, hope and strength to know and do God’s will!

#### OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, you sent Jesus Christ to fulfill the promise of Scripture. Help us to hear and believe the gift and challenge of the gospel, so that we may accept and follow Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN #44 “Like a Mother Who Had Borne Us”

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. Let us lift our voices together to the God of Love...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**God of our Redeemer, we confess that our lives do not reflect your glory. You are loving, patient, and kind; we are envious, boastful, and arrogant. You rejoice in the truth; we revel in our wrongdoing.**

**Forgive us, God of grace. Put an end to our selfish ways and teach us to love one another as you have loved us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

What has God done to us - **shown mercy!** What has God done for us - **forgiven us!** This is the good news for us.

**We will not boast, for it is not our doing. We will give thanks to God for such grace and hope. Amen.**

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD****PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

On you , O Lord, we depend from our birth; you are our hope and trust, from the days of our youth, and you will always be our rock and refuge. Teach us to see Jesus, the hope of prophets, the balm of healing, and the voice of all grace and truth in your scriptures today. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Hosea 11:1-4

- 1 When Israel was a child, I loved him,  
and out of Egypt I called my son.
- 2 The more I called them,  
the more they went from me;  
they kept sacrificing to the Baals  
and offering incense to idols.
- 3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;  
I took them up in my arms,  
but they did not know that I healed them.
- 4 I led them with cords of human kindness,  
with bands of love.  
I was to them like those  
who lift infants to their cheeks.  
I bent down to them and fed them.

**ANTHEM #661** "Why Should I Feel Discouraged?"**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Matt 10:34-38 (NRSV); Ephesians 1:4-5 (The Message)

34 "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

35 For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

37 "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, 38 and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.

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3-6 How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning

this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

7-10 Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. *Abundantly* free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

11-12 It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

**SERMON**                    The Fear of Being a Bad Parent

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

In what ways have you felt like a bad parent?

How does God parent you?

#### INSTALLATION and ORDINATION of new Elders and Deacons

**HYMN #370**                “This is My Father’s World”

### BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

#### OFFERING

Let us offer our gifts to God, for the ministries of this spiritual family and to the Glory of our Risen Lord. Let us pray...

May we always be foolish enough to offer our gifts to you, Generous God, for you use them to bring justice to the oppressed, to bring laughter to those who mourn, and to offer wonder to little children. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*(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)*

**OFFERTORY**                “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

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.*

#### 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 #837**      “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Go out into the world in peace;  
 have courage;  
 hold on to what is good;  
 return no one evil for evil;  
 strengthen the fainthearted;  
 support the weak, and help the suffering;  
 honor all people;  
 love and serve the Lord,  
 rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**POSTLUDE    The Lord Bless You**

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