



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.

5th Sunday after Epiphany
February 5th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Hymn Medley

Terri Palmer

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 139

1 O Lord, you have searched us and know us.

2 You know when we sit down and when we rise up; you discern our thoughts from far away.

3 You search out our paths and our lying down and are acquainted with all our ways.

4 Even before a word is on our tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.

5 You hem us in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon us.

8 If we ascend to heaven, you are there; if we make our beds in Sheol, you are there.

9 If we take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

10 even there your hand shall lead us, and your right hand shall hold us fast.

OPENING PRAYER

May we see the hungry and refuse to pass them by; May we humbly notice those walking shoeless in winter before we repair the holes in our souls, May we worship you truly today, God of the Feast and the Fast. Amen.

HYMN #263 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!"

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Jesus Christ, give us a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Christ, so that the eyes of our hearts might be enlightened. Help us to know the hope to which you have called us, the riches of the glorious inheritance in the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of your power at work in us. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 41:8-10

8 But you, Israel, my servant,

Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;

9 you whom I took from the ends of the earth
and called from its farthest corners,

saying to you, "You are my servant;
I have chosen you and not cast you off";

10 do not fear, for I am with you;

do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you; I will help you;
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

ANTHEM “You Are My Vision”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 8:28-30; Matt 8:20

28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. **30** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

18 Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. **19** A scribe then approached and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” **20** And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” **21** Another of his disciples said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” **22** But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

SERMON The Fear of Being Alone

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Are you afraid of being alone? Why?
Have you ever been alone with God?

HYMN #29 “O God You Search Me” (Ps 139)

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray for our offerings and gifts:
May the gifts we offer, Loving God, be used to fix breakfast for hungry children, to shower others with grace, and to patch the potholes poverty has created in the roadways of the kingdom. This we ask 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

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.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

God meets us in the sacraments,
holy acts in which his deeds
elicit our response.

In the supper our Lord offers
the bread and cup to believers
to guarantee our share
in his death and resurrection,
and to unite us to him
and to each other.

**We take this food gladly,
announcing as we eat
that Jesus is our life
and that he shall come again
to call us to the Supper of the Lamb.**

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

If we say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me," we find that even the darkness is not dark to God; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to God. For God formed our inward parts; God knit us together in the womb.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made. And God delights in healing us from our sin and turning our hearts back to holiness. Let us pray...

PRAAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

It is true we break your commandments, God of Ages. Much worse, we break your heart when we point the finger at those who are different from us; when we gossip about our friends and neighbors; when we think everything is all about us.

Forgive us, Loving God, we pray. We long to know your ways, so open our ears to hear those words we always ignore. We search for you each day, so open our eyes to your wonders so we may see them anew. We would believe in your promises, so fill our hearts with the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

God will show us the way to God's realm. Gracious, merciful, and righteous is our God of salvation!

**God rebuilds our lives, repairs our mistakes, fills our emptiness with hope and joy.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

COMMUNION

All holy God,
how wonderful is the work of your hands!
When sin had scarred the world,
you entered into covenant to renew the whole creation.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
as a father joyfully welcomes his own,
you embraced a people as your own
and filled them with longing
for a peace that would last
and for a justice that would never fail.
Through countless generations
your people hungered for the bread of freedom.
From them you raised up Jesus, your Son,
the living bread, in whom ancient hungers are satisfied.
He healed the sick,
though he himself would suffer;
he offered life to sinners,
though death would hunt him down.
But with a love stronger than death,
he opened wide his arms
and surrendered his spirit.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now let us hear the story of how this sacrament began.
On the night on which Jesus was betrayed,
he sat at supper with his disciples.
While they were eating, he took a piece of bread,
said a blessing, broke it, and gave it to them with the words,
“This is my body. It is broken for you.
Do this to remember me.”
Later he took the cup, saying,
“This cup is God’s covenant,
sealed with my blood.
Drink from it, all of you, to remember me.”

**So now, following Jesus’ example and command,
we take this bread and this cup,
the ordinary things of the world,
which Christ will use for extraordinary purposes.
And as he said a prayer before sharing,**

let us do so too.

Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit
so that this bread and cup may be for us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
May we and all your saints be united with Christ
and remain faithful in hope and love.
Gather your whole church, O Lord,
into the glory of your kingdom.

Acclamation

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
**to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!**

We receive the elements together.

Communion Prayer:

Lord God,
in deep gratitude
for this moment, this meal, these people,
we give ourselves to you.
Take us out to live as changed people
because we have shared the living bread
and cannot remain the same.
Ask much of us, expect much from us,
enable much by us, encourage many through us.
So, Lord, may we live to your glory,
both as inhabitants of earth
and citizens of the commonwealth of heaven. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN #488 I was there to Hear your Boring Cry

CHARGE

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience, forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

BENEDICTION Dona Nobis Pacem

POSTLUDE

May the Peace of Christ be with you...

...And also with you!