



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.

1st Sunday in Lent
February 26th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT “O Jesus, Blest Redeemer”

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 107:1–9

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

**2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
those he redeemed from trouble**

3 and gathered in from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

**4 Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to an inhabited town;**

5 hungry and thirsty,
their soul fainted within them.

**6 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress;**

7 he led them by a straight way,
until they reached an inhabited town.

**8 Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.**

9 For he satisfies the thirsty,
and the hungry he fills with good things.

OPENING PRAYER

God of our salvation, we long to be reconciled to you. Help us to clear away any obstacle that prevents us from accepting the grace of Christ. No matter what we face in this life, increase in us knowledge and patience, kindness and holiness of spirit, genuine love and truthful speech, so that, by the power of God at work in us, we may live even as we are dying and rejoice even in our sorrows. Though it may seem that we have nothing, if we are reconciled to you, we possess everything, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN #307 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

CALL TO CONFESSION

This is the proof of God's great love: that while we were sinners Christ died for us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God of great mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you. We proudly practice our piety yet conceal our secret shame. We trumpet our high ideals yet hide from neighbors in need. Forgive us, by your steadfast love, Create a clean heart within us, teach us your holy way, and restore the joy of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Lifting Water from the font:

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious Spirit, even in the wilderness you are with us, sustaining us with what we need. Now as we hear the Scriptures read and proclaimed, feed us with the Word, that we might live. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. **16** And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, **17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" **2** The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, **3** but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" **4** But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, **5** for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. **7** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

ANTHEM #653 "Give Thanks To God Who Hears Our Cries"**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. **2** He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. **3** The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." **4** But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, **6** saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’

and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, **9** and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” **10** Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

11 Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

We live not by bread alone, but by every word that comes from God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“God Sets a Table for Jesus”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

How does it make you feel that Jesus needed to be cared for by the Angels?

What does this say about Jesus’ care for us?

HYMN #166 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Jesus said, Store up your treasure in heaven, for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Let us prayer for the offering:

Holy God, for all your blessings, known and unknown, remembered and forgotten, we give you thanks. In gratitude we share our gifts--Use all that we bring, and all that we are, to bring your healing and hope, your compassion and peace to our neighbors near and far. 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 #805 “Come Sing to God”

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.

TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

Children are invited to the communion table

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him. —Mark 1:9–13

HYMN #757 "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"**CHARGE**

May the Lord guide you always, satisfying your hunger and thirst in this dry and weary land. And so, we urge you, on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. Amen.

BENEDICTION "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"**POSTLUDE**

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