



## 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 in Lent  
March 5th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

INTROIT “O Jesus, Blest Redeemer”

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 78:1–4

1 Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

**2 I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,**

3 things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.

**4 We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might  
and the wonders that he has done.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

God our helper, our shade, our protector, you are able to give life to the dead, to call into being things that do not exist. We trust in your power to make all things new; to keep us in sunlight and moonlight, along rocky paths and pathways unknown; until all our going and coming brings us at last to your kingdom promised in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN #65 Guide Me, O My Great Jehovah

### 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:** Exodus 16:9-21

**9** Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’ ” **10** And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. **11** The Lord spoke to Moses, **12** “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’ ”

**13** In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. **14** When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. **15** When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. **16** This is what the Lord has commanded: Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer per person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.” **17** The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. **18** But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed. **19** And Moses said to them, “Let no one leave any of it over until morning.” **20** But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it became wormy and rotten. And Moses was angry with them. **21** Morning by morning they gathered it, as much as each needed, but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

**ANTHEM** In Remembrance of Me**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Romans 4:1-5; 13-17

**4** What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? **2** For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. **3** For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed[b] God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” **4** Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. **5** But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

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**13** For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. **14** For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. **15** For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

**16** For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, **17** as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**SERMON** God Sets A Table for Israel

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

Have you ever complained to God?

How has God provided for you in the wilderness?

**HYMN #626** As the Deer

**OFFERING**

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

Brighter Days

**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**

The pattern of faith and true life is clear enough: God gives, and we receive.  
God gives far more abundantly than we can ask or imagine, and we receive.  
God gives life and breath to the world, gives miracles of deliverance and newness, and we receive.  
God gives God's very self in Jesus, and we receive.

People of God, this is the table where God intends for us to be well fed.  
This is the table where the abundance of the whole creation and the angels surrounds us.  
This is the way Christ comes to renew his people.

So come, all you who hunger and thirst  
for a deeper faith, a richer life, a fairer world.

Christ has come. Christ will come again and again to feed us in the wilderness of life.

## 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:

Sharing this bread and this wine, we can expect to be a little more keenly able to notice the table of God's provision through all the hours and days of our lives.

It is the table of Life itself.

We can expect to recognize Jesus Christ in all our meals and fellowship, even when the table is set for one or on a screen. And we remember that our lives, like his, are for the sake of the salvation of a suffering world.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**Lord Jesus Christ, in deep gratitude for this moment and for the provision of this table, we give ourselves to you.**

**We confess we so often labor for what does not satisfy; we try to drink from broken cisterns.**

**Having delighted now in your abundance, send us out to live changed lives, for having shared in the Living Bread, we cannot remain the same. Ask much of us this Lenten journey, enable much by us, encourage many through us. For we journey with you, Lord Christ, Spirit-led, into the wilderness of all our fears, there to find the courage that strengthens us to lean once more into the winds of grace that have sustained your people through all the wildernesses of life.**

**Amen.**

### 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.**

### COMMUNION

Come, Lord, be our host at this table. Bread and wine are waiting.

On your words depend all our celebrating.

Send your Holy Spirit on us and these gifts of bread and wine,

that they may become for us vibrant with your life,  
and that in them we may know Christ's presence,  
the Father's provision, and the Spirit's comfort, real and true.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Among friends, who were bewildered,  
and gathered round a table, Jesus took bread and blessed it.  
Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the  
earth.

Then Christ broke the bread and gave it to his disciples. Through that act Christ teaches  
that:  
This loaf, this table, symbolizes a new relationship with God and with each other,  
sealed with Christ's body, given for you.

Take, eat, remember and believe that God does provide a table in the presence of all our  
fears.

*Participants eat the bread.*

In the same way, Jesus took wine and blessed it.  
Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe, Creator of the fruit of the vine.

Then he poured the wine and gave it to his disciples.  
This cup then and now symbolizes a new relationship with God and with each other.  
It is sealed with Christ's blood, which is poured out and given for you.

Take, drink, remember and believe that God does provide a table in the presence of all  
our fears.

*Participants drink the cup.*

### **Communion Prayer:**

Eternal God,  
you have graciously accepted us  
as living members of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the sacrament of his body and blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart,  
through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

### **TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN**

In the desert the whole community [of Israel] grumbled against Moses and Aaron. . . . “You have brought us out into this desert to starve!” . . . Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. . . . In the morning, . . . thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. . . . The people of Israel called the bread manna. It was white like coriander seed and tasted like wafers made with honey.

—from Exodus 16

### **HYMN    Hold us Together    (Don't print lyrics in bulletin)**

Verse 1: It don't have a job, don't pay your bills  
 Won't buy you a home in Beverly Hills  
 Won't fix your life in five easy steps  
 Ain't the law of the land or the government  
 But it's all you need

Chorus: And love will hold us together  
 Make us a shelter to weather the storm  
 And I'll be my brother's keeper  
 So the whole world will know that we're not alone

Verse 2: It's waiting for you knocking at your door  
 In the moment of truth when your heart hits the floor  
 And you're on your knees

Chorus: And love will hold us together  
 Make us a shelter to weather the storm  
 And I'll be my brother's keeper  
 So the whole world will know that we're not alone

Bridge: This is the first day of the rest of your life  
 This is the first day of the rest of your life  
 'Cause even in the dark, you can still see the light  
 It's gonna be alright, it's gonna be alright  
 This is the first day of the rest of your life  
 This is the first day of the rest of your life  
 'Cause even in the dark, you can still see the light  
 It's gonna be alright, it's gonna be alright

Chorus: Love will hold us together  
 Make us a shelter to weather the storm  
 And I'll be my brother's keeper  
 So the whole world will know that we're not alone

**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**

**May the Peace of Christ be with you...**

**...And also with you!**

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