



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 in Lent

March 12th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT Jesus Blessed Redeemer

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 146:7-9

We come together to worship and bow down to the Lord

7 who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

9 The Lord watches over the strangers;

he upholds the orphan and the widow,

but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

OPENING PRAYER—based on John 4:13-14; 7:37-38

All-knowing and all-caring God,

we gather this day drained by another week.

We are like a parched desert, empty and in need of replenishment.

Visit us with your presence, saturate us with your Spirit,

and bathe us in your streams of living water,

that our lives might acknowledge and worship you

to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ. Amen!

HYMN #839 “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!”

CALL TO CONFESSION: —Psalm 51:17, NRSV

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Let us confess our trespasses and God’s goodness together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison) —based on Psalm 130:3-6, NIV

**If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness;
therefore you are feared.
I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.
Almighty God, our Redeemer,
in our weakness we have failed
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands
and proclaim your reign of love,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON: —based on Psalm 91:14-15, NRSV

Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord;
I will protect those who know my name.
When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them
and show them my salvation.
Receive the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Send your Spirit among us, O God,
as we meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
Prepare our minds to hear your Word.
Move our hearts to accept what we hear.
Purify our will to obey in joy and faith.
This we pray through Christ, our Savior. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 21:8-19

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

8 The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. **9** But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. **10** So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” **11** The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. **12** But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to

you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. **13** As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.”

14 So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. **16** Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. **17** And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. **18** Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” **19** Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

ANTHEM “Wade in the Water”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 5:1-11

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. **3** And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. **8** But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. **9** Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. **11** But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON “God sets A Table for Hagar”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you ever felt abandoned or sent away?

How did God provide for you? Who can you tell about it?

HYMN #834 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

MINUTE FOR MISSION Refugee Welcoming Teams Sarah Martin-Fanone

OFFERING

Let us give our tithes, treasures and talents with joy to our Lord for the furthering of his kingdom. Let us pray:

Mighty God and Father, you overwhelm us with your great mercy.

At the time of our greatest need you surprised us with your wondrous love.

Jesus offered his life for us to remove our dreadful curse.

As you draw us into this renewing relationship of love,

may we respond with gratitude

as we offer the substance of our souls to continue the ministry of Christ.

For his name and glory we pray and present our gifts. 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)

Will the Ushers Please come forward.

OFFERTORY “Softly and Tenderly”

Gary Smith

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 #319 “Shout to the North”

TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy [Ishmael]. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, “I cannot watch the boy die.” And as she sat there, she began to sob. God heard the boy crying. . . . Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water.—from Genesis 21

CHARGE —based on Matthew 4:4, 6, 11

Do not live by bread alone, but by the will of God.

May God give the angels charge over you;

may their hands bear you up and keep you from falling. Amen.

BENEDICTION “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

POSTLUDE

Peace be with you!

...and also with you!