



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 in Lent

March 19th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT “O Jesus, Blest Redeemer”

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 146:7-9

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and gracious in all his deeds.

**14 The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.**

15 The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

**16 You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.**

OPENING PRAYER

Journey with us, O holy God,
as we continue our way to the cross.
Sharpen our focus, that our attention
may center more on you than ourselves.
Lead us through the shadows of darkness and prepare our hearts,
that we might be a people of prayer,
ready to perceive and respond to your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.
In his name we pray. Amen.

HYMN #35 “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

CALL TO CONFESSION: —based on Isaiah 58:6-8, NRSV

Is not this the fast I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice;
to share your bread with the hungry;
to bring the homeless poor into your house;

to clothe the naked?
 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly.
 Having heard these promises, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**Almighty God,
 you despise nothing you have made,
 and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
 Create in us new and contrite hearts,
 that, truly repenting of our sins
 and acknowledging our brokenness,
 we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy,
 full pardon and forgiveness,
 through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON: - based on Ezekiel 36:26; 2 Corinthians 1:20, NIV

The Lord God said:

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you;
 I will remove from you your heart of stone
 and give you a heart of flesh.

Brothers and sisters: In Christ, all God's promises are "Yes."

Hear the good news: Through Christ,
 our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed, and renewed!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of call, God of transformation,
 God of the Lenten journey,
 help us to discern your still, small voice.
 Open us to change and growth,
 that we may walk with Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Kings 19:1-10

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

19 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. **2** Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." **3** Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." **5** Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." **6** He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. **7** The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." **8** He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. **9** At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" **10** He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

ANTHEM

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Ephesians 5:8-14

8 for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, **9** for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. **10** Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. **11** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. **12** For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, **13** but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, **14** for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

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

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"God Sets a Table for Elijah"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you ever been completely exhausted? How has that shaped you?

Have you ever had to wait on God to provide what you needed?

HYMN #824 "There is a Place of Quiet Rest"

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Let us give to the ministries of our spiritual family with grateful hearts in worship to God. Let us Pray:

Compassionate God,
 we offer you these gifts as signs of our time and labor.
 Receive the offering of our lives and feed us with your grace,
 that in the midst of death all creation might feast
 on your unending life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 “Blessings” Laura Story, Jeanie Cupp and Annebeth Carnes

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

O Jesus, who wept over the death of Lazarus,
 be with all who grieve.
 O Jesus, who wept over the state of Jerusalem,
 be with our cities, our villages,
 and our centers of worship.
 O Jesus, who wept alone in Gethsemane,
 be with all who feel alone, all who face difficult decisions.
 O Jesus, who cried,
 “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
 be with all who are tortured,
 all who are victims.
 O Jesus, who offered up prayers
 with loud cries and tears,
 hear our prayers. . . .
 O Jesus, who wept in sympathy and frustration,
 O living God, who knows all our pain and joy,
 be with us in our lives. Amen.

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

Romans 8:28-29 "We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son."

1 Corinthians 12:27 "All of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it."

HYMN Blessed Be Your Name (Lyrics for Slides only)

Verse 1 Blessed Be Your Name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Verse 2 Blessed Be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed Be Your name
Chorus Every blessing You pour out, I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 3 Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be'
Blessed be Your name

Verse 4 Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Chorus Every blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord
Still I'll say
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be the name of the Lord
 Blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord
 Blessed be Your glorious name

Bridge You give and take away
 You give and take away
 My heart will choose to say
 Lord blessed be Your name
 You give and take away
 You give and take away
 My heart will choose to say
 Lord blessed be Your name

Chorus Blessed be the name of the Lord
 Blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord
 Blessed be Your glorious name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord
 Blessed be Your name
 Blessed be the name of the Lord
 Blessed be Your glorious name

CHARGE —Galatians 1:2-5, NIV

Grace and peace to you
 from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
 who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age,
 according to the will of our God and Father,
 to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION The Lord Bless You and Keep You

POSTLUDE

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