



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 of Easter

April 23, 2023 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 I love the LORD because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

2 Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

3 The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

4 Then I called on the name of the LORD, "O LORD, I pray, save my life!"

5 Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is merciful.

6 The LORD protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

7 Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, Jesus, our risen Lord, was made known to the disciples in the breaking of the bread. Open the eyes of our hearts that we may recognize his presence, and with his disciples cry, "The Lord has risen, indeed!" Through Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN PH #838 BH #341 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine"

CALL TO CONFESSION: —Isaiah 30:15, 18, NIV

In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the LORD is God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Living God, we confess that we look for the living among the dead. You speak to us through your Living Word, but we refuse to listen. You feed us with the bread of life, but we hunger for other things. Forgive us; give us new life! Lead us to repent and remember the promise of our baptism: the life that death cannot destroy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:—1 Corinthians 15:20-22, NRSV

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jesus, as you traveled with your two friends to Emmaus, you opened the scripture up to them and their hearts burned within them. Open your Word up to us today and may our hearts burn with the knowledge of your love and the desire to do your will. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 9:1-7

9 But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

3 You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

4 For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5 For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

6 For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Great will be his authority,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

ANTHEM “Worthy is the Lamb”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 1:1-11

- 1** The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.
2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
 “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
 who will prepare your way,
3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 ‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
 make his paths straight,’ ”
4 so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5** And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7** He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. **8** I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Baptism of Jesus

9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. **11** And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

SERMON The River Jordan and Galilee: The Beginning of Jesus’ Ministry

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What struck you when hearing the story of Jesus beginning his ministry?
 Has God done similar things to begin new seasons of ministry in your life?

HYMN PH #475 BH #356 “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

What shall we return to the Lord for all his bounty to us?
 We will lift up [and share] the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord;
 We will pay our vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
 We are servants of the Lord. The Lord who has loosened our bonds. Let us Praise the Lord by our giving.

Let us Pray: We offer these gifts to you, Lord. Multiple them in your grace and power. Use them for your work here in this church family and beyond. 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 “Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door”

George Hameline

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 PH #268 BH #151 “Crown Him With Many Crowns”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION from Psalm 34

Let us bless the LORD at all times;
May his praise shall continually be in our mouths.
May our souls makes its boast in the LORD;
Let our hearts be humble and be glad.
Let us magnify the LORD as one,
and let us exalt his name together.

POSTLUDE

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

Flowers on the Communion Table In celebration of Mike and Jeanne Cupp’s wedding Anniversary