



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 of Easter

April 30th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT Come, Let Us Gather

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 100

1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

2 **We will serve the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.**

3 Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

4 **We will enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.**

We will give thanks to him and bless his name.

5 For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, you are the gate to the sheep fold. We pray that we might hear your voice today as you call us. Help us to ignore strange voices that lead us away from you. Everywhere else there is death and destruction. In you we find life and we find it abundantly. Give us life today Lord. Amen.

HYMN PH #802 BH #171

“The King of Love my Shepherd is”

CALL TO CONFESSION

This promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him: If we would repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ our sins may be forgiven, and we will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Living God, we confess that we look for the living among the dead. You lead us toward green pastures but we wander in dark valleys. You call us by name but we pretend not to hear. Forgive us; give us new life! Return us to your flock and fold that we may have abundant life, the life that death cannot destroy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DECLARATION OF PARDON - Ephesians 2:4-7, NRSV

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Good Shepherd, you call us by name, and we know your voice. Open the gate of your word to us today, that we might come and go freely in your truth, have life in your way and have your work well. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Ezekiel 34:11-15

11 For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. **12** As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. **13** I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. **14** I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. **15** I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God.

ANTHEM Antiphonal Hosanna**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 2:13-17

18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. **19** And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” **20** Immediately they left their nets and followed him. **21** As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. **22** Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

13 Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. **14** As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

15 And as he sat at dinner in Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were also sitting[d] with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. **16** When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” **17** When Jesus heard this, he said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

SERMON

Sea of Galilee: Jesus Calling the Disciples

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you ever felt Jesus calling you to something?
What was it like? Who can you share this with?

HYMN PH#418 “Softly and Tenderly Jesus in Calling”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Let us give what we are able and called to give so that we might lift high the name of our Creating God, our Redeeming Savior and our Sustainer the Holy Spirit. Let us Pray:

Truly you are our Good Shepherd, Lord. You have provided for us and led us into beautiful places. Our souls are restored. As we give for the sake of your name and your work in this world, may we fear no evil, may our enemies become friends, may your goodness and mercy follow us as we seek to follow you and may we live in the hope of your great love for the world. 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**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, when you were abused, you did not return abuse; when you suffered, you did not threaten, but you entrusted yourself to the one who judges justly. You himself bore our sins in your body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by your wounds we have been healed. For we were going astray like sheep, but now we returned to you: the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Help us to rest in your good care....

Help us to follow your lead...

Help us to share the good news of your transforming grace with others...

Teach us to pray for our world, for our enemies, for our friends and for ourselves...

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 #743 "O God, You are My God"

CHARGE - Matthew 28:19-20, NRSV

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

BENEDICTION Alleluia

POSTLUDE

Peace be with you!

...and also with you!