



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.

5th Sunday of Easter, Communion Sunday
May 7th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Video: Come to the Table ~ Sidewalk Prophets

WELCOME

CELEBRATION OF 40 YEAR MEMBERS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 35

In you, O LORD, we seek refuge; do not let us ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver us.

Incline your ear to us; rescue us speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for us, a strong fortress to save us.

You are indeed our rock and our fortress;
for your name's sake lead us and guide us;

**take us out of the net that is hidden for us,
for you are our refuge.**

Into your hand we commit our spirit;
you have redeemed us, O LORD, faithful God.

Our times are in your hand; deliver us from the hand of our enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servants; save us in your steadfast love.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, in Christ you have shown us the way, revealed to us your truth, and offered to us everlasting life. Keep our eyes upon him, that we may see your path more clearly, know your truth more fully, and receive your life more abundantly; through Christ, who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in eternal glory. Amen.

HYMN PH #406 "We Are Standing on Holy Ground"

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine within our hearts, loving Lord, with the true light of your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our minds, that we may comprehend the message of your Word, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Proverbs 4:10-18

- 10** Hear, my child, and accept my words,
that the years of your life may be many.
- 11** I have taught you the way of wisdom;
I have led you in the paths of uprightness.
- 12** When you walk, your step will not be hampered,
and if you run, you will not stumble.
- 13** Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;
guard her, for she is your life.
- 14** Do not enter the path of the wicked,
and do not walk in the way of evildoers.
- 15** Avoid it; do not go on it;
turn away from it and pass on.
- 16** For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong;
they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble.
- 17** For they eat the bread of wickedness
and drink the wine of violence.
- 18** But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,
which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

ANTHEM Simple Gifts**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** John 6:16-21; Mark 2:1-12

16 When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, **17** got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. **18** The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. **19** When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. **20** But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." **21** Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

2 When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. **2** So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. **3** Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. **4** And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. **5** When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven." **6** Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, **7** "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" **8** At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? **9** Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? **10** But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic— **11** "I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your

home.” **12** And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

SERMON In the Footsteps of Jesus: Capernaum

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What does it mean to you that Jesus had a home in Capernaum?

What would it be like to have Jesus as a neighbor?

OFFERING

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Let us give to God what we have vowed and provide for the ministries of this church.

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. Blessed be God forever. 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 also 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.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Come to this table: you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him Here.

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: Hymn PH# 701 Lord Prepare Me

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Living God, we confess that we look for the living among the dead. You call us to be a holy temple, but we reject the very cornerstone. You call us to be a holy people, but we resist your saving grace. Forgive us; give us new life! Make us new people, a new temple, filled with the Spirit of life--the life that death cannot destroy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DECLARATION OF PARDON: —from Colossians 2:13-15, NRSV

When you were dead in trespasses, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

COMMUNION

All holy God, how wonderful is the work of your hands! When sin had scarred the world, you entered into covenant to renew the whole creation. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, as a father joyfully welcomes his own, you embraced a people as your own and filled them with longing for a peace that would last and for a justice that would never fail. Through countless generations your people hungered for the bread of freedom. From them you raised up Jesus, your Son, the living bread, in whom ancient hungers are satisfied. He healed the sick, though he himself would suffer; he offered life to sinners, though death would hunt him down. But with a love stronger than death, he opened wide his arms and surrendered his spirit. On the night before he met with death, Jesus came to the table with those he loved. He took bread and praised you, God of all creation. He broke the bread among his disciples and said, “Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body, given for you.” When the supper was ended, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you, God of all creation. He passed the cup among his disciples and said, “Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of the new covenant sealed in my blood for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.” Gracious God, as we offer you our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we commemorate Jesus, your Son. Death could not bind him, for you raised him up in the Spirit of holiness and exalted him as Lord of creation.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Jesus freely accepted the death to which he was handed over in order to destroy death and to shatter the chains of the evil one; to trample underfoot the powers of hell and to lead the righteous into light; to fix the boundaries of death and to manifest the resurrection. And so he took bread, gave thanks to God, and said,

“Take, and eat; this is my body, broken for you.”

In the same way he took the cup, saying, “This is my blood, shed for you. When you do this, do it for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering therefore his death and resurrection, we set before God this bread and cup, thankful that God has counted us worthy to stand in God's presence and serve God as his priestly people.

God of all power, send your Holy Spirit upon us, that in sharing the bread we may share in the body of Christ, that in sharing the cup we may share in his blood. Grant that, being joined together in Christ Jesus, we may become united in faith and in all things become mature in the one who is our head.

Come, then, for all is ready.
 Christ was raised to life,
 death is swallowed up,
 victory is won. Alleluia!

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Communion Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for the love that brings us food from heaven, gives us the life of your dear Son, and assures us that we belong to the company of all his faithful people in heaven and on earth. Grant that, strengthened by this fellowship and by the power of his Holy Spirit, we may continue his work in the world, until we come to the glory of your eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN PH #321 BH #442

“The Church's One Foundation”

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

POSTLUDE

May the Peace of Christ be with you...

...And also with you!
