



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.

6th Sunday of Easter

May 14th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Battle Belongs Phil Wickham (Video)

WELCOME

RECOGNITION OF MOTHER'S DAY

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 66

8 Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
9 who has kept us among the living
and has not let our feet slip.

**10 For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.**

11 You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;
12 you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

**13 We will come into your house with burnt offerings;
We will pay you our vows,**

**14 those that our lips uttered
and our mouths promised when we were in trouble.**

16 Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for me.

17 I cried aloud to him,
and he was extolled with my tongue.

18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.

**19 But truly God has listened;
he has heard the words of our prayer.**

**20 Blessed be God,
who has not rejected our prayer
or removed his steadfast love from us.**

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, in whom we live and move and have our being, help us to choose life in you, that we may keep the commands of Jesus, follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and witness to the hope that is within us, sharing Christ's love in the world. Amen.

HYMN PH #12 BH #263 "Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise"

CALL TO CONFESSION

We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done, who we are and who God is. Let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Living God, we confess that we look for the living among the dead. You made the heavens and the earth, but we worship our own devices. You send your Spirit to guide us, but we try to find our own way. Forgive us; give us new life!

Renew the promise of our baptism and make us ready to receive the life that death cannot destroy through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:—1 Peter 1:18-21, NRSV

You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 115:1-13

- 1** Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.
- 2** Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?"
- 3** Our God is in the heavens;
he does whatever he pleases.
- 4** Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.
- 5** They have mouths, but they do not speak;
they have eyes, but they do not see.

- 6** They have ears, but they do not hear;
they have noses, but they do not smell.
- 7** They have hands, but they do not feel;
they have feet, but they do not walk;
they make no sound in their throats.
- 8** Those who make them are like them;
so are all who trust in them.
- 9** O Israel, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
- 10** O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
- 11** You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD!
He is their help and their shield.
- 12** The LORD has been mindful of us; he will bless us;
he will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;
- 13** he will bless those who fear the LORD,
both small and great.

ANTHEM “God Is”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 6:1-15; Matt 4:23-25

6 After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. **2** A large crowd kept following him because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. **3** Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. **4** Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. **5** When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” **6** He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. **7** Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” **8** One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, **9** “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” **10** Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all. **11** Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” **13** So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. **14** When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

15 When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

23 Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. **24** So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various

diseases and pains, people possessed by demons or having epilepsy or afflicted with paralysis, and he cured them. **25** And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

SERMON “Crowds Come to Jesus”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Did Jesus ever seem hesitant or afraid of crowds? Why or why not?

Have you ever met Jesus in a crowd? Did it lead to a closer connection with him?

HYMN PH # 317 (BH #440) In Christ There is No East Or West

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Responding to God’s bountiful gifts to us in Christ, we have opportunity to share out of our abundance.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care. As we contribute to the needs of your people, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Through 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 also be placed in dropbox located in the New Narthex)

Will the ushers please come forward.

OFFERTORY “Joy”

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 “Because He Lives”

CHARGE

Go in peace,

in the knowledge of God’s power.

Go in confidence,

in the knowledge of God’s strength.

Go in joy,

in the knowledge of God’s love.

BENEDICTION “Dona Nobis”

POSTLUDE

Peace be with you!

...and also with you!