



## 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.

7th Sunday of Easter

May 21st, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE** "Reason" Unspoken

**WELCOME**

**INTROIT**

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have been in the wilderness

**All: Discerning and working, seeking and dreaming.**

One: We have been in the wilderness

**All: Grieving and wondering, praying and hoping.**

One: We have been in the wilderness

**All: Longing and running, creating and waiting.**

One: We have been in the wilderness, but we have not been alone; for God walks with us, every step of the way.

**All: So let us worship the God of our darkest nights and our brightest days.**

One: Let us worship Holy God.

#### OPENING PRAYER

Redeeming God, you call us to be one with you, as you are one with Christ. As Jesus' perfect love casts out our fear, and changes it to love, unite us by your Spirit of peace, that we may be one with you, as you are one with Christ. Amen.

**HYMN PH#275 BH#260** "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Trusting in God's faithfulness and compassion, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison) Adapted from Isaiah 35:1-10

**God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your Word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing.**

**Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON:** —Psalm 145:13-14

The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down. Let us lift our heads up to the Lord!

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God in Heaven, you ride upon the clouds, awesome in majesty and power. You pour out your mercy on parched places, shower down blessings upon those in need and thunder righteous justice on the earth. Your will, your character and your ways are spoken to us through your scripture. May we hear with our whole hearts today. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Exodus 5:1-3

**5** Afterward Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and said, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Let my people go, so that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness.” **2** But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should listen to him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and I will not let Israel go.” **3** Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has revealed himself to us; let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness to sacrifice to the LORD our God, or he will fall upon us with pestilence or sword.”

**ANTHEM** “We Are Travelers On a Journey”

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Mark 1:9-13

**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.”

**12** And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. **13** He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

**SERMON** “Jesus in the Wilderness”

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you ever been in a wilderness?  
In what way did Jesus meet you there?

#### ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW ELDER

**SONG** “Blessed Be Your Name” Matt Redman

### BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

**OFFERING**

Let us offer our gift to the Living God, the Lord who made the heavens and the earth and everything therein. Let us pray:

Merciful God, we remember that Your Son was tempted in the desert as we are, and yet He won the victory over sin. And now, because of His victory, we have hope that we too can be victorious over the temptations we face in life. Lord, grant us the strength and courage we need to overcome our weaknesses so that one day we can stand before You and hear You say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." May our gifts today be a token of our gratitude and obedience to you. We ask these things in the Name of Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. 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**

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

**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#273 BH#153** "He is King of Kings"

**CHARGE**

Go into the world: dance, laugh, sing, and create.

**We go with the assurance of God's blessing.**

Go into the world: risk, explore, discover, and love.

**We go with the assurance of God's grace.**

Go into the world: believe, hope, struggle, and remember.

**We go with the assurance of God's love. Thanks be to God!**

**BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

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