



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 After Pentecost

June 18th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Will We Ever Rise-- The Brilliance

WELCOME

Celebration of Father's Day

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT PH #35 "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty (1st verse)"

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord our God is great.

The Lord is worthy of our praise.

Come, let us remember the great things God has done for us.

Let us not neglect to teach our children the greatness of God.

Let us not forget our past and those who have gone before us.

We remember our ancestors and our history; and we name our future.

Let us lift our voices in song, lift our arms in praise, and open our hearts in gratitude.

Let us greet God with our hymn of praise.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we come to worship you today with open hearts and open minds. We want to hear and receive what you have to say to us in this service. Speak to us today as you spoke to those who went before us. Tell us the stories of your wonder and greatness. We are ready to hear them. Remind us once again of your grace and love. Help us teach your goodness to our children and the next generation. Amen.

HYMN #81 "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"

CALL TO CONFESSION: —based on Psalm 66:16, 18-20, NRSV

The psalmist testifies: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me. In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God of grace, we grieve that the church, which shares one Spirit, one faith, one hope, and one calling, has become a broken communion in a broken world. The one body spans all time, place, race, and language, but in our fear we have fled from and fought one another, and in our pride we have mistaken our part for the whole. Yet we marvel that you gather the pieces to do your work, that you bless us with joy, with growth, and with signs of unity. Forgive our sins and help us to commit ourselves to seeking and showing the unity of the body of Christ. In his name, Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:—based on 1 Peter 2:9-10, NRSV

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

People of God, all of us together have received God’s mercy in Christ. In Christ we are forgiven, redeemed, and made to be a community united in faith. Thanks be to God.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pour out your Spirit on us again, as your Word is proclaimed, that we may be faithful to our baptismal calling, ardently desire the communion of Christ’s body and blood, and serve the poor of your people and all who need your love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 19:2-8a

2 They journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. **3** Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: **4** ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. **5** Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, **6** but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

7 So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. **8** The people all answered as one, “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.” Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

ANTHEM

Be Still and Know

Donna Anderson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 8:4-25

4 Now those who were scattered went from place to place proclaiming the word. **5** Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. **6** The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, **7** for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed, and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. **8** So there was great joy in that city.

9 Now a certain man named Simon had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great. **10** All of them, from the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.” **11** And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. **12** But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. **13** Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place.

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. **15** The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit **16** (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). **17** Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. **18** Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, **19** saying, “Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” **20** But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God’s gift with money! **21** You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. **22** Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. **23** For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness.” **24** Simon answered, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me.”

25 Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many villages of the Samaritans.

SERMON Dealing with Prejudice: Samaria

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Can you name your neighbors?
Make an intentional effort to chat with a neighbor this week.

HYMN #825 “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (verses 1-3)”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

We gather in Jesus' name to worship, pray and sing. Let us now give in Jesus' name of our time, talent and treasure to further his kingdom. Let us pray...

God of life, we pray that our unity will be seen not only in what we believe but also in how we work together to be salt and light in this world. May our gifts today be a sign for each other and the world, that we pledge to work together in your name for the healing of this broken and hurting world. 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 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

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed that his disciples might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

PLEASE just print in bulletin and not on screen

1. Notice what time of day your neighbors are out in their yard, the street, or a nearby park.
2. Pick a time to take a walk when you're likely to bump into some neighbors.
3. As you walk, pray for your neighbors.
4. If you bump into a neighbor, ask how they've been. Take time to listen to them. If appropriate, share with them how you're doing (be honest; don't candy-coat it).
5. After the conversation, pray for them as you walk (or offer to pray for them in the moment, if it seems appropriate).

Alternative: If taking a walk isn't an option for you, think and pray about a friend, neighbor, or colleague who doesn't know Jesus to whom you can reach out. Give them a call and tell them you were thinking about them. Do step 4 and 5 above.

HYMN #339 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

CHARGE

May the God who makes everything holy and whole,
make you holy and whole, put you together—
spirit, soul, and body—
and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ.
The One who called you is completely dependable.
If he said it, he will do it! Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION #825 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (verse 4)

POSTLUDE

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