



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 after Pentecost

July 16th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT PH #406 “We Are Standing on Holy Ground”

CALL TO WORSHIP From Psalm 65

1 Praise is due to you,

O God, in Zion,

and to you shall vows be performed,

2 O you who answer prayer!

To you all flesh shall come.

3 When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
you forgive our transgressions.

**4 Happy are those whom you choose and bring near
to live in your courts.**

**We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
your holy temple.**

5 By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance,
O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.

**6 By your strength you established the mountains;
you are girded with might.**

7 You silence the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves,
the tumult of the peoples.

**8 Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**

OPENING PRAYER

O most merciful Redeemer, friend, and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

HYMN PH #32 BH #288 “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

The journey of faith is one of transformation. We begin by turning our eyes away from selfish pursuit and onto God's beauty. It is in the light of God's mercy and grace and we are transformed, let's pray together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

We know that living selfish lives according to the flesh leads to death. We know this because we have all earned and inherited dead relationships, dead dreams and dead hopes. We also know that those who live their lives according to the Holy Spirit find life and peace.

We desperately want to find life and live in peace. Help us to set our minds on you. Wash us clean in your mercy and grace. End, in us, whatever is hostile to you and empower us to please you. Give us life so that we might live for you. Give us peace so that we might give it to others.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

You are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We pray, Lord, that you will open the door of our hearts to receive you within our hearts. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 55:10-13

10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

12 For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

ANTHEM PH #79 "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 4:32-37; 5:1-11

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. **33** With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. **34** There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. **35** They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. **36** There was a Levite from Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). **37** He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

5 But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; **2** with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? **4** While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!" **5** Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. **6** The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him.

7 After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price." And she said, "Yes, that was the price." **9** Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." **10** Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. **11** And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

SERMON "Dealing with Self-centeredness: Jerusalem"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Has anyone been incredibly generous to you?

What does it take to be generous?

HYMN PH #693 BH #335 "Though I May Speak"

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING —Ephesians 5:1-2, NJB

As God's dear children, then, take him as your pattern, and follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up for us as an offering and a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God. Let us pray:

Generous God, you have given us life, a place to live in, and people to live with. Open our eyes to each other and to all our brothers and sisters, especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated. Make us humble enough to help and comfort them, so that your love and justice and peace may come to them.

We make bold to consecrate ourselves and our gifts to you and to the service of others, through Jesus 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 PH #286 BH #316 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

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.

TABLETALK WITH GOD’S CHILDREN

PLEASE just print in bulletin and not on screen

1. Ask God to bring to mind someone who doesn’t know Jesus who has served you or your family (first responder, teacher, tutor, coach, grocery store clerk, medical worker, etc.).
2. Purchase a physical or e- gift card for them (from a local restaurant or business, if possible).
3. Send or give it to them with a note of appreciation and anything else you feel led to share.

HYMN PH #546 BH #538 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

CHARGE

May the One who walked on hurt feet walk with you on the road.
May the One who served with hurt hands open your hands to serve.
May the One who loves with a hurt heart open your hearts to love.
And may you see the face of Jesus in everyone you meet
and may everyone you meet see the face of Jesus in you.

BENEDICTION PH #540 “Farewell, Good Friends!”

POSTLUDE

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