



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.

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 23rd, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT “This Little Light of Mine”

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 139

- 1 O LORD, you have searched us and known us.
- 2 You know when we sit down and when we rise up;
you discern our thoughts from far away.**
- 3 You search out our paths and our lying down
and are acquainted with all our ways.
- 4 Even before a word is on our tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.**
- 5 You hem us in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon us.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for us;
it is so high that we cannot attain it.**
- 7 Where can we go from your spirit?
Or where can we flee from your presence?
- 8 If we ascend to heaven, you are there;
if we make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**
- 9 If we take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
- 10 even there your hand shall lead us,
and your right hand shall hold us fast.**
- 11 If we say, “Surely the darkness shall cover us,
and night wraps itself around us,”
- 12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.**

OPENING PRAYER

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and in truth through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN "I'll Fly Away"

CALL TO CONFESSION: from Romans 8:15-17

This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike "What's next, Papa?" God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him! Let us pray together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Search us, O God, and know our hearts; test us and know our thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Teach us your way, O Lord, that we may walk in your truth: give us an undivided heart to revere your name.

Turn to us and be gracious to us; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your maidservant. You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Give thanks to the Lord our God, with your whole heart,
and glorify God's name forever.

For great is God's steadfast love toward us;

God has delivered our souls from the depths of Sheol and given us life. Praise the Lord!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

May we be good soil to the seeds of the Gospel that are read and interpreted today. May your Word grow in our lives fruitfully and abundantly so that all might know your love for the world. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 44:6-8

6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

8 Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?

There is no other rock; I know not one.

ANTHEM “Soon and Very Soon”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 15:1-5

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” **2** And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. **3** So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the gentiles and brought great joy to all the brothers and sisters. **4** When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. **5** But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, “It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.”

SERMON Dealing with Unsound Doctrine: Syria and Cilicia

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you ever been lovingly confronted when you were wrong?

Have you ever felt moved to lovingly confront someone?

How did you feel the Holy Spirit work in those situations?

HYMN PH #100 “Canticle of the Turning”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING —based on 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, NRSV

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 the opportunity to share out of our abundance.

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 “Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho”

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. Next time you are out shopping (in store or online), ask God to help you notice something that someone you know might enjoy (preferably someone who doesn't know Jesus yet). If you see something, purchase it. Or make something yourself."
2. Then share it with that person, telling them that you thought of them. Ask them how they're doing.
3. Afterwards, pray for them (or with them, if appropriate.)

HYMN PH #700

"I'm gonna live so"

CHARGE—Psalm 106:48, NIV

Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.

Let all the people say,

"Amen!" Praise the LORD.

BENEDICTION Go Now in Peace

POSTLUDE

Peace be with you!

...and also with you!