



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.

10th Sunday after Pentecost
August 6th, 2021 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Just a Closer Walk with Thee (Video)

WELCOME

INTROIT #469 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 17

1 Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to our cry; give ear to our prayer from lips free of deceit.

2 From you let our vindication come; let your eyes see the right.

6 We call upon you, for you will answer us, O God; incline your ear to us, hear our words.

7 Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

15 As for us, we shall behold your face in righteousness; when we awake we shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

OPENING PRAYER

You, Lord, are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You uphold those who are falling and raise up all who are bowed down. Our eyes look to you today, Lord.

Feed our souls with your Holy Spirit. Build us up in your love and grace. Remind us that we are your people, the sheep of your hand. Amen.

HYMN #450 "Be Thou My Vision"

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Glorious God, your generosity floods the world with goodness and you shower creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for food to satisfy both body and heart, that in the miracle of being fed we may be empowered to feed the hungry in Jesus' name. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 55:1-5

1 Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

3 Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

5 See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

ANTHEM #479 “Ho, All Who Thirst” (Isaiah 55:1-5)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 20:13-38

13 We went ahead to the ship and set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul on board there, for he had made this arrangement, intending to go by land himself. **14** When he met us in Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. **15** We sailed from there, and on the following day we arrived opposite Chios. The next day we touched at Samos, and the day after that we came to Miletus. **16** For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; he was eager to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

17 From Miletus he sent a message to Ephesus, asking the elders of the church to meet him. **18** When they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the entire time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, **19** serving the Lord with all humility and with tears, enduring the trials that came to me through the plots of the Jews. **20** I did not shrink from doing anything helpful, proclaiming the message to you and teaching you publicly and from house to house, **21** as I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus. **22** And now, as a captive to the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, **23** except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me. **24** But I do not count my life of any value to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the good news of God’s grace.

25 “And now I know that none of you, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom, will ever see my face again. **26** Therefore I declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, **27** for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. **28** Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. **29** I know that after I have gone, savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. **30** Some even from your own group will come distorting the truth in order to entice the disciples to follow them. **31** Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to warn everyone with tears. **32** And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified. **33** I coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothing. **34** You know for yourselves that I worked with my

own hands to support myself and my companions. **35** In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

36 When he had finished speaking, he knelt down with them all and prayed. **37** There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, **38** grieving especially because of what he had said, that they would not see him again. Then they brought him to the ship.

SERMON Dealing with Loss of Leadership: Miletus

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you ever had to say goodbye to a good leader due to new opportunities, retirement or death?

Did your organization deal with the loss of leadership well?

Did you sense the Holy Spirit working?

OFFERING —from 1 John 3:17-18, NRSV

How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Dear children, let us love, not in word or speech, but also in truth and action. Let us give our offerings to the Lord as an act of worship. Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us— 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

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.*

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” —from John 6:35, NRSV

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION:

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others. In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON: —from 1 John 1:5, 7, NRSV

This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION #521 In Remembrance of Me

Communion Prayer:

Glory to God the Father, who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ and crowned him with glory and honor.

Glory to God the Son, who lives to plead our cause at the right hand of God and who will come again to make all things new.

Glory to God the Holy Spirit, who brings us the taste of the good Word of God and the power of the age to come.

Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might be to our Lord for ever! Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN - PLEASE just print in bulletin and not on screen

America has been going through an important season of self-reflection regarding racism. An important mission action we can take right now is to listen deeply and non-defensively to our

black brothers and sisters who may be hurting (and any other ethnicity for that matter!). Listen with your heart; let their words affect you.

One of the keys to listening well is not to discount what is said even if you don't feel it's being said perfectly. Listen for the main point.

If you do not have a black friend you are already in conversation with, here are some other ways to listen:

1. Watch a movie like Just Mercy (Starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx and Brie Larson.) [Click Here](#).
2. Watch George Floyd's funeral on YouTube: [Watch here](#).
3. Read a blog post like this one from a black Christian leader like Cedrick Brown: The Unmuted Gospel ([Click Here](#)).
4. Listen to a sermon by a black preacher about racism like this one: (Kenneth Ulmer) You Don't Look Like Your Picture on YouTube ([Click Here](#)).

HYMN #475 “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

CHARGE —based on Ephesians 1:18-19

As you leave here today, be hopeful because God said so.

Try your best to see God in every place and every day.

Trust God because God can do it all. Amen.

BENEDICTION #839 “Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!” (1st Verse)

POSTLUDE

May the Peace of Christ be with you...

...And also with you!
