



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.

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 13th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Well Done Video

WELCOME

INTROIT #317 “In Christ There is No East to West (1st and 4th verse)”

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 105

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD!

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God,

you are present with us throughout our lives,
even when others plot to do us harm.

May we learn to live together in unity,
that in all we do,

we may sing your praises now and forever. Amen.

HYMN #408 “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Word is near to you sisters and brothers! On your lips and in your heart, because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Let us pray together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Our hearts are cluttered, O God. We have little space for our passions and even less for you. Our belief that you raised your Son to life has little room to grow and some days feels stunted from lack of nourishment. We hesitate to act on our weak faith and so the confessions of our mouths, our actions, our intentions and our words all fail to claim you as Lord. Strengthen our hearts so that we might believe with renewed strength that you are the God of renewed life and resurrection. Free our mouths, our hands and our feet, so that we can praise you, serve your people and proclaim your goodness to your world. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

No one who believes in Jesus will be put to shame. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. We can have full confidence that the one who started this work of grace in our lives will be faithful to complete it. We are being made into God's people through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dear Jesus, sometimes reading Scripture is like being on a small boat in a raging storm. It is scary, it is threatening and we want to be anywhere but here. As the disciples discovered you walking on the water, may we find you in the scriptures. May you say today as you said then, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Kings 19:9-18

19:9 At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

19:10 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

19:11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;

19:12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

19:13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

19:14 He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

ANTHEM

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 13:13-16; 26-33; 42-52

13 Then Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem, 14 but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. 15 After the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it." 16 So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak:

"Fellow Israelites and others who fear God, listen....

26 "Brothers and sisters, you descendants of Abraham's family and others who fear God, to us[f] the message of this salvation has been sent. 27 Because the residents of Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize him or understand the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath, they fulfilled those words by condemning him. 28 Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death, they asked Pilate to have him killed. 29 When they had carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. 30 But God raised him from the dead, 31 and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, and they are now his witnesses to the people. 32 And we bring you the good news that what God promised to our ancestors 33 he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus...

42 As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people urged them to speak about these things again the next Sabbath. 43 When the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and blaspheming, they contradicted what was spoken by Paul. 46 Then both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken first to you. Since you reject it and judge yourselves to be unworthy of eternal life, we are now turning to the gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

‘I have set you to be a light for the gentiles,
so that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

48 When the gentiles heard this, they were glad and praised the word of the Lord, and as many as had been destined for eternal life became believers. 49 Thus the word of the Lord spread throughout the region. 50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city and stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and drove them out of their region. 51 So they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

SERMON Dealing with Disbelief: Pisidian Antioch

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Do you know anyone who does not believe that Jesus is Lord?

Have you ever spoken to them about it? Why or why not?

HYMN #451 “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

If we give, we give to the Lord to proclaim his goodness and provide for the ministries of this church. Let us give now according to God's call on our lives. Let us pray:

Through the storms of life, O God,
 you are with your people
 in the person of Jesus your Son.
 Calm our fears and strengthen our faith
 that we may never doubt his presence among us
 but proclaim that he is your Son,
 risen from the dead,
 living for ever and ever. 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

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

Use your voice for good

If you did last week's mission challenge, hopefully you learned something new about racism. While there is undoubtedly more to hear and learn, this week's challenge is to begin responding by using your voice for good.

1. Is there someone with whom you can share what you learned or how Christ feels about people being treated unequally because of their race? Maybe a child? A friend or loved one?
2. Can you write a letter or email to a public official or other leader?
3. Can you speak up in defense of the dignity and value of someone(s) you hear being treated or spoken about prejudicially?

HYMN #634 "To God be the Glory"

CHARGE —from Revelation 1:5-6, NRSV

To Jesus Christ, who loves us
and freed us from our sins by his blood
and made us to be a kingdom,
priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION #634 To God be the Glory (refrain only)

POSTLUDE

Peace be with you!

...and also with you!