

## 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.

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 10th, 2023 10:00 a.m.



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### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE** “Here I am Lord”

by Daniel Schuette

### WELCOME

**INTROIT PH #409 BH #461** “God is Here!” (verse 1)

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 119

**33** Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I will observe it to the end.

**34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.**

**35** Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for I delight in it.

**36 Turn my heart to your decrees  
and not to selfish gain.**

**37** Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;  
be gracious to me according to your word.

**38 Confirm to your servant your promise,  
which is for those who fear you.**

**39** Turn away the disgrace that I dread,  
for your ordinances are good.

**40 See, I have longed for your precepts;  
in your righteousness be gracious to me.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Oh Lord, we are humbled to be invited into your presence. You call us to enter into your dwelling place and dine with you. You dwell within us and never abandon us. This morning as we worship together, fill us with a deeper sense of your presence. Give us a hunger and thirst to spend time with you. Prune all the places in our lives that keep us from you and empower us to do your will in everything set before us. Amen.

**HYMN #223 BH #101** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Our sins weigh us down, and we struggle to live in freedom and joy. When we turn and return to the God who loves us, God finds pleasure. We turn now, confessing our sins against God and neighbor.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

From evil, even when it masquerades as good,

**Merciful God, deliver us.**

From selfishness and vain desires,

**Merciful God, deliver us.**

From irresponsible behaviors, quarreling, and jealousy,

**Merciful God, deliver us.**

From hurtful disagreements and irreconcilable differences,

**Merciful God, deliver us.**

**Turn us away from the death sin inflicts.**

**Lead us into the abundant life Christ brings.**

**Forgive us, we pray, and teach us to forgive, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### DECLARATION OF PARDON

Laying aside the works of darkness, we live in the light of Christ. Gathered in Christ's name, surely he is among us, full of grace and truth.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and lifted up to new life. Thanks be to God.**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Awaken our hearts and minds to your Word, O God. Give us understanding so that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we are able to do all that you command for love's sake. Gathered in Christ's name, gathered around the Word, we pray. Amen

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Numbers 15:37-41

#### Fringes on Garments

**37** The LORD said to Moses, **38** "Speak to the Israelites, and tell them to make fringes on the corners of their garments throughout their generations and to put a blue cord on the fringe at each corner. **39** You have the fringe so that, when you see it, you will remember all the commandments of the LORD and do them and not follow the lust of your own heart and your own eyes. **40** So you shall remember and do all my commandments, and you shall be holy to your God. **41** I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the LORD your God."

**ANTHEM** "Brethren, We Have Met To Worship"  
Bonnie Griffith & Bob Chappelle

by James Curnow

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 8:40-56****A Girl Restored to Life and a Woman Healed**

**40** Now when Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all waiting for him. **41** Just then there came a man named Jairus, a leader of the synagogue. He fell at Jesus's feet and began pleading with him to come to his house, **42** for he had an only daughter, about twelve years old, and she was dying.

As he went, the crowds pressed in on him. **43** Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all she had on physicians, no one could cure her. **44** She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, and immediately her flow of blood stopped. **45** Then Jesus asked, "Who touched me?" When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds are hemming you in and pressing against you." **46** But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I noticed that power had gone out from me." **47** When the woman realized that she could not remain hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him and how she had been immediately healed. **48** He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace."

**49** While he was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the teacher any longer." **50** When Jesus heard this, he replied, "Do not be afraid. Only believe, and she will be saved." **51** When he came to the house, he did not allow anyone to enter with him, except Peter, John, and James and the child's father and mother. **52** Everyone was weeping and grieving for her, but he said, "Do not cry, for she is not dead but sleeping." **53** And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. **54** But taking her by the hand, he called out, "Child, get up!" **55** Her spirit returned, and she stood up at once, and he directed them to give her something to eat. **56** Her parents were astounded, but he ordered them to tell no one what had happened.

**SERMON** "Jesus' Secret Source"

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD****A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

Do an honest count, how much time did you spend in silence before the Lord last week, listening for the Lord's voice to you?

What are two things you can change this week to open more space for prayer and sitting before the Lord?

**HYMN PH #203** "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

## BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

### OFFERING

When we think of our “offering” we often think of our treasures, but God has blessed us with so much more than our material resources. When we come to offering we measure by “ten percent,” but the truth is it all belongs to God and we owe 100%. As we come before him to offer the time, treasures, talents and relationships that he has blessed us with, let us not only give to support the ministry of this body, but also give in our hearts a commitment of 100% of our lives. Examine where you have been holding back and symbolically put that part of your life into the plate this week as it passes. As you buy groceries, buy as unto the Lord. As you write your mortgage check, write it as unto the Lord. When you hug a loved one, hug them as unto the Lord. Let us come now and bless God by the giving God’s tithes and our offerings.

*(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)*

**OFFERTORY**      “We Love Thy House, O God”      by John Longhurst

### 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

Ask God...

This week’s mission challenge is very simple. Each morning (or as many mornings as you can manage), ask God, “Where do I regularly accept what is not the best for me?”

When God shows you a place you have “settled” for second best, cut that out of your life for a week and spend that energy seeking God’s best for you instead.

**HYMN PH #542 BH #540** “God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

#### CHARGE

The God of peace beckons you to come,  
heed that call and enter into God’s presence this week.

The power to do God's will is directly tied to your strong connection in prayerful listening to God's presence in your life.

The love of God pursue you;  
the grace of Christ overtake you;  
and the Holy Spirit flow through you,  
as love fills all in all.

**BENEDICTION PH #542 BH #540** "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" (verse 1)

**POSTLUDE** "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" by Carolyn Hamlin

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