



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.

16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 17th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT PH #363 “ Rejoice the Lord is King”

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 107

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

**2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits-**

3 who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,

**4 who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**6 The LORD works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

7 He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.

**8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

9 He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

**10 He does not deal with us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

**12 as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

13 As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.

**14 For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.**

15 As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;

OPENING PRAYER

God, our source and our salvation, in love you made us and by love you have redeemed us. Make your love for us bear fruit in our forgiveness of others, that in this life we may know your all-embracing compassion and in the world to come receive the everlasting joy of fellowship you share with your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN PH #611 BH #464

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

CALL TO CONFESSION - based on Psalm 139:23-24, NRSV

The psalmist models a transparent faith with these words: Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. We express our longing for God’s leading by our own transparent confession. Let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God our redeemer, we confess that we remain captivated by sin. You move heaven and earth to save us, but we are unmoved by the suffering of others. You are willing to forgive again and again, but we are unwilling to forgive the debts of others. Forgive us; liberate us! Let us be no longer bound by sin, but released, restored, set free to worship and serve you in freedom through Jesus Christ our Lord.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:—Isaiah 53:4-6, NRSV

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Samuel 15:7-24

7 Saul defeated the Amalekites, from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt. **8** He took King Agag of the Amalekites alive but utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. **9** Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the cattle and of the

fatted calves,[a] and the lambs, and all that was valuable and would not utterly destroy them; all that was despised and worthless they utterly destroyed.

10 The word of the LORD came to Samuel: **11** “I regret that I made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not carried out my commands.” Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the LORD all night. **12** Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, and Samuel was told, “Saul went to Carmel, where he set up a monument for himself, and on returning he passed on down to Gilgal.” **13** When Samuel came to Saul, Saul said to him, “May you be blessed by the LORD; I have carried out the command of the LORD.” **14** But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears and the lowing of cattle that I hear?” **15** Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and the cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but the rest we have utterly destroyed.” **16** Then Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.” He replied, “Speak.”

17 Samuel said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel. **18** And the LORD sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’ **19** Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the LORD?” **20** Saul said to Samuel, “I have obeyed the voice of the LORD. I have gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. **21** But from the spoil the people took sheep and cattle, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.” **22** And Samuel said,

“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices
as in obedience to the voice of the LORD?
Surely, to obey is better than sacrifice
and to heed than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is no less a sin than divination,
and stubbornness is like iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
he has also rejected you from being king.”

24 Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

ANTHEM “Seek Ye First”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. **2** Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. **3** Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them.

4 Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. **6** Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

7 For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. **8** If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. **11** For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to [d] God.”

12 So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

SERMON “Unhealthy Spirituality”

Pastor Robie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Do you use God to run from God?

Do you divide your life into sacred and secular?

Where does God dwell in your daily life?

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

HYMN PH #475 BH #356

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING Let us be faithful stewards of our time, our talents, and our money. so that our treasure is in heaven and our giving pleases God. Let us pray...

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care. As we contribute to the needs of your people, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Through 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)

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

Pray for those in authority

Scripture commands us to pray for those in authority, "that we may live peaceful and quiet lives." (1 Tim 2:2) It's so easy to complain about our leaders, but let's pray for them instead.

Our national, state, and local leaders have to make many tough decisions. They need wisdom. They face many pressures and temptations to compromise. They need courage and moral resolve. As God's people, each day this week, let's stand beside them and lift them up in prayer.

HYMN PH #269 BH #151

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

CHARGE

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith,
be courageous, be strong.

Let all that you do be done in love.

And the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

BENEDICTION

Amen, Amen

POSTLUDE

Peace be with you!

...and also with you!