



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.

3rd Sunday after Epiphany
January 21st, 2024 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT #418 Softly and Tenderly (1 verse)

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 62

5 For God alone our souls wait in silence,
for our hope is from him.

**6 He alone is our rock and our salvation,
Our fortress; We shall not be shaken.**

7 On God rests our deliverance and our honor;
Our mighty rock, our refuge is in God.

8 Trust in him at all times, O people;
pour out your heart before him;
God is a refuge for us.

11 Once God has spoken;
twice have I heard this:
that power belongs to God,

**12 and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.
For you repay to all according to their work.**

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Jesus, it feels as if the appointed time has grown short and the present form of this world is passing away. Much that we have known is gone and even our young people are mystified at what is forming. Speak to us today of eternal things. Share with us your everlasting character. Teach us to rest in your unchanging love for us and for this world. Amen.

HYMN #649 (BH #280) Amazing Grace

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jonah warned the people of Nineveh that in 40 days they would be overthrown and their great city destroyed. The people believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small put on sackcloth. Let us hear God's voice and respond with honest confession. Let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

We confess, God, that we have hoarded and misused the bread you so generously send. We have carelessly paved over places that are better suited for growing food and sustaining life; we have poisoned waters better used for drinking; we have polluted the air your creation breathes every day. We fail to speak words of life to each other and the world, forcing famine on each other's spirits. We fill ourselves by emptying others and fail to find our substance in you. Forgive us, nurturing God. Give us open eyes to see the way of renewal. Give us open hands to share abundantly. Give us faith to know that you hold every day in your hands.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways and cried out to Him,

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God in heaven, let us approach your word as John the Baptizer did, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe in the good news." Today is the day to listen and now is the moment to obey your word to us. Give us ears to hear and hearts to love. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 16:13-21

13 In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. **14** When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. **15** When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. **16** This is what the LORD has commanded: Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer per person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents." **17** The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. **18** But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed. **19** And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over until morning." **20** But they did not listen to Moses; some left part of it until morning, and it became wormy and rotten. And Moses was angry with them. **21** Morning by morning they gathered it, as much as each needed, but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

ANTHEM

Let There be Peace on Earth

Arr. Hawley Ades

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 6:25-40

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” **26** Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. **27** Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” **28** Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” **29** Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” **30** So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? **31** Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” **32** Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. **33** For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” **34** They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. **36** But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. **37** Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away, **38** for I have come down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. **39** And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day. **40** This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.”

SERMON

Give Us Today Our Daily Bread

Pastor Robbie

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

What does receiving your daily bread mean to you?

Do you see others going without their ‘daily bread’?

What is the Holy Spirit telling us to do about it?

HYMN #282 (BH # 313) Come Down, O Love Divine

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD**OFFERING**

In a world that sees the accumulation of things as success, let us renew our citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven where the last will be first and the first will be last. Where those who seeks to save their lives will lose it and those who lose their lives in the love of the Father will find it and so much more. Let us pray...

O God, may we seek your kingdom as we give, and as we serve, and as we care, and as we love. Give us the Spirit of wisdom to know how to give gracefully and fully and faithfully. 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

Loving God, your son taught us to pray to you for our daily bread. So with voices around the world, we call:

Give us bread!

Give us today our daily bread:

This day, God, people are hungry—Children lie down at night with empty stomachs. People everywhere search with broken hearts. We are hungry for justice and mercy, for peace and compassion. We call out for daily bread, for daily needs: for water that flows pure from a mountain, for air that blows clean across the prairies, for foods planted, tended, harvested, and shared, for land and sky filled with life and renewal, for governments that are just, for homes that are places of rest and play, for families, friends, partners, neighbors who walk with us, comfort us, love us . . . Give people everywhere the living Bread. Nurture us body and soul so that we might worship your with voice, thought and deed. Strengthen our bodies and your body, the Church, so that we might reflect your glory to the world.

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.

HYMN #269 (BH #447) Lead on, O King Eternal

CHARGE

Go into the world with faith, hope and love, knowing that God hears our petitions.

Let us recommit ourselves daily: hallowing God's name, doing God's will, bringing God's kingdom to earth.

Seek bread for the people living next to us, for those who are suffering, for those who are hungry.

Let us never tire of working and praying for the daily bread that all of humanity and all of creation need.

BENEDICTION Dona Nobis Pacem

POSTLUDE

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