



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.

5th Sunday after Epiphany Communion
February 4th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT PH #399 "God Welcomes All"

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 147 (Alex)

1 Praise the LORD!

How good it is to sing praises to our God,
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

**2 The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.**

**3 He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.**

4 He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

**5 Great is our Lord and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.**

6 The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

**7 Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.**

8 He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.

**9 He gives to the animals their food
and to the young ravens when they cry.**

10 His delight is not in the strength of the horse
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner,

**11 but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

OPENING PRAYER (Alex)

O God, you summon the day to dawn, you teach the morning to waken the earth. For you the valleys shall sing for joy, the trees of the field shall clap their hands. For you the kings of the earth shall bow, the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy. Your love and mercy shall last forever, fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise. Great is your name. Great is your love. Amen.

HYMN PH #203 BH #367

“Jesu, Jesu Fill us with your Love”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (Thomas)**

God, source of all light, by your Word give light to our lives. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Ezekiel 28:11-17a (Thomas)

11 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me:

12 Mortal, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him: Thus says the Lord God:

You were the signet of perfection,
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;
every precious stone was your covering,
carnelian, chrysolite, and moonstone,
beryl, onyx, and jasper,
sapphire, turquoise, and emerald;
and worked in gold were your settings
and your engravings.

On the day that you were created
they were prepared.

14 You were a cherub;
I placed you on the holy mountain of God;
you walked among the stones of fire.

15 You were blameless in your ways
from the day that you were created,
until iniquity was found in you.

16 In the abundance of your trade
you were filled with violence, and you sinned,
so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God,
and I drove you out, O guardian cherub,
from among the stones of fire.

17 Your heart was proud because of your beauty;
you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.

ANTHEM “The Lord of the Dance”

Pote

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 6:5-13; James 1:12-18 (Alex)

5 “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. **6** But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

7 “When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. **8** Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

12 Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. **13** No one, when tempted, should say, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. **14** But one is tempted by one’s own desire, being lured and enticed by it; **15** then, when desire has conceived, it engenders sin, and sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers and sisters. **17** Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **18** In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

SERMON

“Lead us not into temptation”

Pastor Lindsey

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What are you most tempted by?

What does it mean to you to not be led into temptation?

OFFERING (Alex)

With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy. With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love. With hopefulness we give in commitment to God. Let us pray...

Blessed are you, God of all creation; through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. Blessed be God forever. 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.

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 (Cathy)

He was always the guest.
In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary,
he was always the guest.
At the meal tables of the wealthy,
where he pled the cause of the poor,
he was always the guest.
Upsetting polite company,
befriending isolated people,
welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.
But here, at this table, he is the host.

Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him.
Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him.
Those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean.

For this is the table
where God intends us to be nourished;
this is the time when Christ can make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith,
for a better life, for a fairer world.
Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.

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: (Sam)

21 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
and spreads them like a tent to live in,
23 who brings princes to naught

and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
 He gives power to the faint
 and strengthens the powerless.
 30 Even youths will faint and be weary,
 and the young will fall exhausted,
 31 but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
 they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
 they shall run and not be weary;
 they shall walk and not faint.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God in Heaven, we are called to proclaim your gospel to the world. Yet we find ourselves boasting about our own holiness and insisting on our rights at the expense of others. You have made us free, yet we enslave ourselves to sin, negativity and bitterness. We separate ourselves from others, refusing to see the good in them. We flaunt our Gospel freedom and demand that others abide by the Law that none of us can keep. We hold our strengths over those who are weak, we parade our wealth in front of those who have nothing. In our ignorance of what your Gospel means, we tarnish and destroy it.

Teach us your good news, Lord, so that we might partner with you in sharing with others. Teach us your good news, so that we might receive the full benefit of your love for us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

For the sake of the Gospel, Jesus lived, died and was raised again. For the sake of the Gospel take up this commission: Know yourself to be forgiven by God through Jesus Christ and forgive others as you have been forgiven. Amen.

COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Author of all life, in whose image each of us is made, hear our prayer of thanks for all your good gifts. Out of all the people on earth, you took our ancestors and made them your people. In the deserts of our lives, you have been with us. You meet us on the mountains and go with us through the valleys. You supply our every need.

In Jesus Christ, your love for all was made evident. He ate with the outcast, strengthened the weary, walked with the lonely. He offered this life on our behalf; was crucified, died and rose victorious even over death.

Spirit, send your power upon these gifts, your bread and your cup. Bless them and your people all around the world. As we eat of these common elements, unite our spirits in love for you, and our hearts in love for one another. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night Jesus was to be betrayed, he gathered his friends from all walks of life, wishing to share his meal with those he loved. He took a common loaf of bread and made it into the

extraordinary Bread of Life. He broke it and shared it with them, saying, “Whenever you eat this, it will bless you. This bread represents my body which is broken for you. Take some and eat it.”

Then he poured ordinary drink and blessed it. He said, “Drink this, all of you. It represents my blood offered for you. Remember that your sins are forgiven.”

SHARING THE FEAST

COMMUNION PRAYER:

We thank you, God, for making one people out of many. Thank you for your love in Jesus, who invites us to his table, a people forgiven. Look upon us as we leave this feast, that the union we have shared here not be forgotten, but be used to strengthen our bonds with all people. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN PH #834 BH #404 “Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

[Instructions for Marilee: Third verse to be added on slide:

Verse Three: When the darkness appears and the night draws near

And the day is past and gone

At the river I stand

Guide my feet, hold my hand

Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Scriptural interlude: Matthew 14:22-33 (Cathy)

22 [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. 23 And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, 24 but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. 25 And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. 26 But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

28 Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” 29 He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” 31 Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” 32 When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

End with verse 1

CHARGE

As God's own, (Alex)
 clothe yourselves with compassion, (Thomas)
 kindness, and patience, (Alex)
 forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, (Thomas)
 and crown all these things with love, (Alex)
 which binds everything together in perfect harmony. (Thomas)

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Sam)

BENEDICTION

The Peace of God

Wagner

POSTLUDE

May the Peace of Christ be with you...

...And also with you!