



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.

1st Sunday in Lent

February 18th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT #399 “God Welcomes All”

CALL TO WORSHIP

How are you this morning?

It would be easy for us to say “fine, thank you”, but the truth is that there are lots of things going on in your lives, lots of time crunches and pressures.

You have come to the right place. Rest for a minute. Take a deep breath and let it out slowly. Just relax and let your heart be open to God’s word for you.

That sounds good to us.

Feel the healing, soothing power of God’s love for you.

Lord, we rest our minds, spirits, and hearts in your compassionate love.

OPENING PRAYER (Breath Prayer)

God invites us to rest...to spend time...to sit...to be still. The first invitation, before we move, spoke, thought, God said, “Let us do nothing together.” Let us remember that, as we practice Sabbath.

Inhale: God is here

Exhale: I am here

Inhale: I am here

Exhale: We are here

HYMN PH #465 BH #403

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

God invites us into the house of God with open and welcoming arms, and invites us to lay down our guilt along the way. Let us rest our burdens with God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God, we confess that we are not good at resting. We do not even know how to do nothing. And, we confess, if it is difficult to do nothing by ourselves, it is even harder to do it together. Yet your

invitation—to be still, in community, is beautiful and daring. Help us to hear it, hold it, and savor it; not with guilt but with sacredness we pray. Amen (Silent Confession)

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Hear the Good News: God is always awaiting to restore us, so we can proclaim the Good News: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, Creator of Time and Space, our time of Sabbath rest brings us close to you. Speak to us in silence and scripture your words of timeless truth. So may we be moved to help create holy space in our daily lives and the lives of others. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS Genesis 1:27-2:3, Psalm 46:1-11

27 So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” **29** God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. **30** And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. **31** God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. **2** On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. **3** So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.

5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

6 The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.

7 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

8 Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

10 “Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.”

11 The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

ANTHEM #90 Wait for the Lord

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;

and though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in the LORD.

One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

To behold the fair beauty of the LORD, to seek God in the temple.

Refrain

For on the day of trouble the LORD shall shelter me in safety; the LORD shall hide me in the secrecy of the holy place and set me high upon a rock.

Even now the LORD lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in the holy place an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

Refrain

Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

You speak in my heart and say, “Seek my face.” Your face, LORD, will I seek.

Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will sustain me.

Refrain

Show me your way, O LORD; lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

O tarry and await the LORD’s pleasure; be strong, and the LORD shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the LORD.

Refrain

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 11:28-12:8

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

12 At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. **2** When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, “Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath.” **3** He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? **4** How he entered the house of God, and they ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests? **5** Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and yet are guiltless? **6** I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. **7** But if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. **8** For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath.”

SERMON

Rest for Your Soul

Pastor Lindsey

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

HYMN PH #833 BH #384 “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

(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)

God calls us to be generous, not when all the bills are paid, not when we have everything we need, not when we see our way clear. God calls us to be generous now, in this present moment, trusting in God who is our Provider. And so we give freely, as we have received freely, we love fully as we have been fully loved.

Lord, accept the gifts of our hands and the thankfulness of our hearts, hearts, and hands, and voices, all lifted in praise to you, God of our life! Amen.

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

O God, source of love and compassion in the suffering of all your children, we offer our compassion also for the hungry and the sick in body, mind, or heart; the depressed and the lonely; all living in fear and under stress; all stricken in grief; the unemployed and the rejected; and those burning with hatred. Strengthen us to work for their healing, and inspire us to build with you the kingdom of love in which none will cause suffering to others and all will be caring, loving children of yours, our compassionate, all-embracing God, ever present, ever loving, never failing. Amen.

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

HYMN PH #353 BH #379 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

CHARGE

Do not live by bread alone, but by the will of God.
May God give the angels charge over you;
may their hands bear you up
and keep you from falling. Amen

BENEDICTION The Peace of God

Wagner

POSTLUDE

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