



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.

2nd Sunday in Lent
February 25th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT PH #399 “God Welcomes All”

CALL TO WORSHIP

God breathed life in the first humans

It is enough to be present with God

Whether we need to feel grounded or more supported

God will orient us in the ways we need to go

Teach us to pray in the ways we need to pray

Breathe into us today God, Holy Spirit Come!

OPENING PRAYER (Breath Prayer)

Holy Spirit, be with us as we "un-entangle" the sources of our exhaustion and try to find life giving practices to do more than sustain—so that we might thrive and be in community with one another. In Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Inhale: I am here

Exhale: I will be present

Inhale: There is time

Exhale: God sits with us

HYMN PH #393 BH #470

“O Day of Rest and Gladness”

CALL TO CONFESSION

God breathed life into us, and taught us to pray. Thus, we are able to lay anything that troubles us at the feet of God, come let us confess ourselves to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God, we confess that we are so weary, that we do not know what it is like to be fully rested. We see children pass us by and say, “I wish I had that energy.” However, we confess that we are also envious of their joy and freedom from responsibilities. Help us to find true

soul-sustaining, life-giving rest, and the peace beyond understanding the Jesus promises, so that we can find that new way of being. Teach us to take the time for Sabbath and breathe. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Jesus Christ promises to make all things new, hold fast to that promise and know the truth:**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, teach us how to dance to the rhythm of your wisdom. Show us how to laugh with the insights of your truth, so that we can live for the praise of your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Deuteronomy 5:12-15, Exodus 16:22-30

12 “ ‘Observe the Sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. **13** Six days you shall labor and do all your work. **14** But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. **15** Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

22 On the sixth day they gathered twice as much food, two omers apiece. When all the leaders of the congregation came and told Moses, **23** he said to them, “This is what the LORD has commanded: Tomorrow is a day of solemn rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD; bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil, and all that is left over put aside to be kept until morning.” **24** So they put it aside until morning, just as Moses commanded them, and it did not rot, and there were no maggots in it. **25** Moses said, “Eat it today, for today is a Sabbath to the LORD; today you will not find it in the field. **26** Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, which is a Sabbath, there will be none.”

27 On the seventh day some of the people went out to gather, and they found none. **28** The LORD said to Moses, “How long will you refuse to keep my commandments and instructions? **29** See! The LORD has given you the Sabbath; therefore on the sixth day he gives you food for two days; each of you stay where you are; do not leave your place on the seventh day.” **30** So the people rested on the seventh day.

ANTHEM

“Were You There?”

Harry T. Burleigh

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Hebrews 4:1-12

4 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it. **2** For indeed the good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them because they were not united by faith with those who listened. **3** For we who have believed are entering that rest, just as God has said,

“As in my anger I swore,
‘They shall not enter my rest,’ ”

though his works were finished since the foundation of the world. **4** For somewhere it speaks about the seventh day as follows, “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” **5** And again in this place it says, “They shall not enter my rest.” **6** Since therefore it remains open for some to enter it and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, **7** again he sets a certain day—“today”—saying through David much later, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.”

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak later about another day. **9** So then, a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God, **10** for those who enter God’s rest also rest from their labors as God did from his. **11** Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through such disobedience as theirs.

12 Indeed, the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

SERMON Sabbath as a Rhythm

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What does exhaustion look like for you?

What is the most fulfilling thing you have done this year?

What is the difference between the things that fulfill you and the things that exhaust you?

HYMN PH #509 “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Let us come into God’s presence with our gifts and offerings, joyfully given. Let us together give what we have committed to the ministry and mission of God with glad hearts! Let us pray...

We offer our gifts to you, Lord, with grateful, cheerful hearts. Thank you that you meet our needs on the journey, providing what we need when we need it. Trusting you, we can share what we have with others, and we do this joyfully, together, today, in Jesus' name, 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

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 #366 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

CHARGE

Grace and peace to you
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,
who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age,
according to the will of our God and Father,
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION "The Peace of God"

Wagner

POSTLUDE

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