



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 in Lent Communion
March 3rd, 2024 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT PH #183

“Come to Me, O Weary Traveler”

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

2 Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard;

4 yet their voice goes out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

5 which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

6 Its rising is from the end of the heavens and its circuit to the end of them, and nothing is hid from its heat.

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

12 But who can detect one's own errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

OPENING PRAYER (Breath Prayer)

To rest is to be human. We need to give ourselves the chance to unfurl the stories that await and can be uncovered, if only we rest, play, and dream ourselves out of the systems of exhaustion.

(Inhale) I am enough
(Exhale) I am enough now
(Inhale) God full of grace
(Exhale) Fill me with your Spirit

HYMN PH #169 BH #345 “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Wisdom of the Ages, we come wanting to hear your voice of truth which is too often drowned out by the noise of worldly speech. We are listening, speak to us now. Fill our hearts with a love of your Word that our lives may model your ways and will. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Kings 19:1-11

19 Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. **2** Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.” **3** Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.” **5** Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.” **6** He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. **7** The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you.” **8** He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. **9** At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” **10** He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

11 He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake,

ANTHEM “For God so Loved”

J. Martin

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Mark 4:35-41

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” **36** And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. **37** A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. **38** But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” **39** And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Be silent! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. **40** He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” **41** And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

SERMON

Sabbath as an Act of Resistance

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What keeps you from practicing Sabbath?

What is difficult about resting for you?

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you about these things right now?

OFFERING

We long for the time when the meek shall inherit the earth and all who hunger and thirst after justice shall be satisfied, and we believe that, despite the persistence of evil, now is always the time when more good can be done and we can make a difference. May it be so, through the offering of these gifts and the offering of our lives. 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 “The Battle Belongs To The Lord”

~ Bass Gary Smith

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**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

[Chorus]

Take it easy easy
 God already loves you completely
 Take it easy easy
 Rest in the shade of His wings

[Verse 1]

Lay down your burdens
 And rest for a while
 The shepherd who seeks you
 Is gentle and kind
 There's nothing to pay for
 And nothing to earn
 And nothing you have to become

[Chorus]

Take it easy easy
 God already loves you completely
 Take it easy easy
 Rest in the shade of His wings

[Verse 2]

Lay down the scales
 Where you weigh out your life
 The measures are empty just leave them behind
 The distance between His two hands are enough
 To tell you the depths of His love

[Chorus]

Take it easy easy
 God already loves you completely
 Take it easy easy
 Rest in the shade of His wings

[Bridge]

Lay down the armor
 You brought to the fight
 Lay down your weapons
 And lay down your strife
 God's on your side
 And He won't let you go
 He already loves who you are
 Won't ask you to be something more

[Chorus]

Take it easy easy
 God already loves you completely
 Take it easy easy
 Rest in the shade of His wings
 Rest in the shade of His wings

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God, we confess that we do not dream enough. We do not value our divine spark that you placed in us. We confess that we busy ourselves with getting by, surviving, achieving, even outdoing one another. We confess to honor the Sabbath, but we don't actually practice Sabbath-keeping. Remind us that rest is holy and beautiful, and helps us reclaim our humanity, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

God loves us and forgives us, embracing us and calling us beloved no matter what state we are in, therefore we can be assured of the truth

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jesus Christ as we celebrate this time of coming together with one another, may you transform this communion into a prayer of reconciliation with one another and our community, so that we might learn how to pray as we eat, breathe and walk among the world. As we taste this bread and cup, let us remember that you sent your son Jesus Christ to live a human life and teach us how to live the life of embodied prayer, one where teaching, serving and loving can all be active ways of praying our way through life. May this communion that we celebrate be an act of prayer as well. Send your Holy Spirit to transform these elements into the embodiment of this communion with all those who have

come before, all those who will come, and the entire church who is praying now and forever in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION
SHARING THE FEAST
COMMUNION PRAYER**

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

HYMN PH #824 BH #527 "There is a Place of Quiet Rest"

CHARGE

May God himself, the God of peace,
sanctify you through and through.
May your whole spirit, soul and body
be kept blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

BENEDICTION Lord Bless You and Keep You

POSTLUDE

May the Peace of Christ be with you...
...and also with you!