



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.

4th Sunday in Lent

March 10th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT PH #183 “Come to Me, O Weary Traveler”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come, out of your busy lives to a quiet time and place

Our souls thirst for some peace and quiet.

Come, and rest in the Lord who will restore your souls.

Our lives need moments of rest.

Come and find the quiet center. Come, be at peace.

Praise God who offers to us a shelter and resting place. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER (Breath Prayer)

God help us to find spaces for rest dreaming. Help us to affirm that we can create without
making things. Teach us to allow for silence.....(Silence for 5 seconds)...and space.
(Silence for 5 seconds)

Inhale: I am God's image

Exhale: God created me

Inhale: God redeems us

Exhale: God fills us with Good things

HYMN PH #209 BH #76 My Song is Love Unknown

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus welcomes anyone in need to come and be comforted, come let us present ourselves to
Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**Jesus Christ, you assure us that to confess our sins is enough, so here we are, confessing
that we are imperfect, confessing that we need healing, confessing that we are too like the
paralytic man than we like—in need of healing in more than one way. Forgive us our sins**

and teach us to accept our imperfections, we pray. Remind us that forgiveness is more important than perfections, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Hear the Good News: God dreamt us into being, and God loves us into wholeness. Know the Good News: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Creating God, We come to hear and marvel at the story of your imagination made known in our world. Open our hearts as we hear your word and lead and lead us from despair to hope, from death to life so that we may be inspired to share the wonder of your grace. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8

- 1** For God alone my soul waits in silence;
from him comes my salvation.
- 2** He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.
- 5** For God alone my soul waits in silence,
for my hope is from him.
- 6** He alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
- 7** On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my 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.

ANTHEM

He Is the One

Craig Courtney

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Peter 2:1-10

2 Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all slander. **2** Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— **3** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and **5** like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

- 7** This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

8 and “A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

10 Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

SERMON Sabbath is Good for Your Humanity

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

This past week, have you done something regrettable because you were not rested, calm, peaceful?

Do you need to reconcile? How will you do that?

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS AND DEACONS

HYMN PH # 515 BH #507 I Come with Joy

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

We make our offerings, small and large, with the hope and confidence that all we do, all we offer, all we say, all we think, and all we hope will take root in this world and be the source of new expressions of God’s love, of God’s justice, of God’s character, of God’s mission, and of God’s reign. May God’s will be done on earth as it is in heaven through us, alongside us, despite us, and for us. 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 This is our Father’s World

Handbell Choir

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~~ Treasure of My Heart**HYMN PH #438**

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

CHARGE

Sisters and brothers,
let us claim the freedom Christ gives us
by his self-giving on the cross.
May he enable us to serve together
in faith, hope, and love.
Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION Lord Bless You and Keep You**POSTLUDE**

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