



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 in Lent
March 17th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Won't You Be My Neighbor?

Mr. Rogers

WELCOME

INTROIT PH #183 "Come to Me, O Weary Traveler" (verse 1 and 4)

CALL TO WORSHIP

God has set this day before us,

A day set apart, a day of rest and praise.

God has set our lives before us,

A span of years in which we love, and learn, and serve.

God has set God's seal upon our hearts,

So that we might live fully in deep love.

Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER (Breath Prayer)

God, I am here. My birth was not a coincidence. It was in community to be beloved, in the fabric. But that does not mean that I always need to be active. Just as a baby is beloved, when they sleep in their parent's arms, I am just as beloved, when I rest or play, as when I work. Help me remember that I pray, Amen.

Inhale: God be with me

Exhale: God enjoys me

Inhale: God loves the world

Exhale: We are God's beloved

HYMN #263 (#BH 142) All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

CALL TO CONFESSION

God plants the seeds of joy in us, let us confess where we feel we fall short, so that we rest in God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

I confess that sometimes I miss the point of tending and growing joy. God, I confess I do not think of rest as a connectational time. I do not think as slumber as time spent with God, even though the first thing you want humanity to do with you, was to stay and rest with you a while. I confess that I do not find other humans worth in how much Sabbath they take, full confession, we humans do not value one another by how good we are at resting and playing with each other. Help us God, to

figure out spaces and ways to value and bless one another. Teach me how to tend to the needs of joy and the gardens of your kingdom work I pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Jesus Christ promises us peace and love within the Kingdom, and so we know that our confession is seen, heard and accepted. Let us proclaim the Good News, **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 8:18-30

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. **19** For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, **20** for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22** We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, **23** and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. **24** For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? **25** But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. **27** And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

28 We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. **29** For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. **30** And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

ANTHEM

He Is the One

Craig Courtney

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Mark 2:23-3:5

23 One Sabbath he was going through the grain fields, and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. **24** The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" **25** And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food, **26** how he entered the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions?" **27** Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the Sabbath, **28** so the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

3 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. **2** They were watching him to see whether he would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. **3** And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." **4** Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. **5** He looked

around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

SERMON

How Did Jesus Celebrate the Sabbath

Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Did the ways that Jesus celebrated Sabbath resonate with you in a special way?
How might you practice rest like Jesus?

HYMN #475 (BH #356) Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to give, which we do with joyful, grateful hearts. We look at the needs of the world, and our offerings are small. May they be like yeast, gifts that grow in your kingdom, bringing a rich harvest of righteousness. We pray this 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 #157 (BH #302) I Danced in the Morning

CHARGE

May the God of love, who shared his love,
strengthen us in our love for others.

May the Son who shared his life
grant us grace, that we might share our life.

And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us
empower us to be only and always for others. Amen.

BENEDICTION The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Wagner

POSTLUDE

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