



## 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 of Easter Communion  
April 7th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE** God Walks the Dark Hills Gaither/Goodman

#### WELCOME

Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn. I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples, I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is as high as the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens. Let your glory be over all the earth.

**INTROIT PH #408 BH #398** “There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

This is the good news— the grave is empty; Christ is risen.

**Hallelujah!**

This is the good news— the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.

**Hallelujah!**

This is the good news— once we were no people; now we are God’s people.

**Hallelujah!**

Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

**Hallelujah!**

**PASSING THE PEACE** Peace Before Us

**Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet.**

**Peace within us, peace over us, let all around us be peace.**

**Christ before us, Christ behind us, Christ under our feet.**

**Christ within us, Christ over us, let all around us be Christ.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

God of glory, fill your church with the power that flows from Christ’s resurrection so that, in the midst of the sinful world, it may signal the beginning of a renewed humanity, risen to new life with Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**CALL TO CONFESSION:** Felix Culpa Alana Levandoski

**He who watches over you, will never slumber or sleep.**

**He who watches over you, will never slumber nor sleep.**

**And, oh my child, lay your burdens down, and lay them at my feet.**

**He who watches over you, will never slumber nor sleep.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

**Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired; new love where we have turned hard-hearted; forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded; and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners of ourselves.**

**[Silence]**

**To all and to each, on his community and on his friends, where regret is real, Jesus pronounces his pardon and grants us the right to begin again. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON: Take It Easy**

**[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**

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God of life, your Spirit raised Jesus from dead. Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture. Your Spirit draws us to Christ and helps us to acknowledge him as Lord. We ask that you will send your Spirit now to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope through the proclamation of the Easter gospel. Amen.

### **FIRST LESSON:** Acts 4:32-35

**32** Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. **33** With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. **34** There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. **35** They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

### **ANTHEM PH #625 BH #467**

“How Great Thou Art”

### **SECOND LESSON:** John 20:19-31

**19** When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **20** After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” **22** When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

**24** But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

**26** A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27** Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” **28** Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29** Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

**30** Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. **31** But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**SERMON**                      The 2nd Day

#### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What sustains your faith?

How can you share this with the person next to you?

#### OFFERING

Let us give as we have been given to, freely, generously, obediently and graciously.

Let us pray:

Good Shepherd, you spread a table before us. We offer you our gifts, signs of your gracious love and tokens of our grateful hearts. Nourish us at the feast of the Lamb, that we may proclaim to all the world your triumphant love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*(If you would like a written prayer request included in our prayers today, please indicate that and an usher will collect them)*

*Will the Ushers please come forward.*

#### OFFERTORY                      Remember Me

This song is especially dedicated to those who suffer from memory loss and/or dementia and for those who love and care for them.

#### 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** “Come to the Table” Sidewalk Prophets (slide show)

## **DRESSING 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.*

## **COMMUNION**

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to save us. He came with healing in his touch and was wounded for our sins. He came with mercy in his voice and was mocked as one despised. He came with peace in his heart and met with violence and death. By your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb, and at his command the gates of hell were opened. The one who was dead now lives. The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation, the Lamb upon the throne. The one ascended on high is with us always, as he promised.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **SHARING THE FEAST**

### **COMMUNION PRAYER:**

Nourished at this table, O God, may we know Christ’s redemptive love and live a new life in him. Help us who recognize our Lord in the breaking of bread to see and serve him in all whose lives are broken. Give us who are fed at his hand grace to share our bread with the hungry and with the hungry of heart. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes in final victory, and we shall feast with all your saints in the joy of your eternal realm. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

## **BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD**

## **TABLETALK WITH GOD’S CHILDREN**

**HYMN PH #321 BH #442** “The Church’s One Foundation”

### **CHARGE**

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**BENEDICTION** May the Peace

**May the peace of the Lord go with you. X3  
Wherever you may go.**

**1 If He sends you to the wilderness,  
May He give you flowing springs.  
Through the long days of your exodus,  
Taste the sweetness manna brings.  
May the peace...**

**2 if He sends you on the raging sea,  
May His mercy go before  
To show you where your calling leads  
And protect you in the storm.  
May the peace...**

**3 If He sends you through the vale of tears,  
May He join you as you weep.  
May He hold you when you meet your fears  
In the shadows dark and deep.  
May the peace...**

**POSTLUDE**

**May the Peace of Christ be with you...  
...And also with you!**