



## 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 of Eastertide  
April 14th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

INTROIT “I Will Worship the Lord”

Rutter

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 4

1. Answer us when we call, O God of our right!

**You gave us room when we were in distress.**

**Be gracious to us, and hear our prayer.**

2 How long, you people, shall God’s honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

**3But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself;  
the Lord hears when we call to him.**

4 When you are disturbed, do not sin;  
ponder it on your beds, and be silent.

5 Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

**6 There are many who say, “O that we might see some good!**

**Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!”**

**7You have put gladness in our hearts  
more than when our grain and wine abound.**

8 We will both lie down and sleep in peace;

**for you alone, O Lord, make us lie down in safety.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

We give you thanks, great God, for the hope we have in Jesus, who died but is risen and rules over all. We praise you for his presence with us. Because he lives, we look for eternal life, knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come can separate us from your great love made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN PH #366 BH #376

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

**CALL TO CONFESSION:**

All of us have fallen short of the glory of God. None of us can stand without guilt and shame. But for the grace of God, we would be crushed by God's righteous majesty. Oh Hallelujah! that Jesus' life, death, and resurrection assure our inheritance on God's household. And so, it is with confidence, through the work of Jesus Christ, that we approach God's mercy seat. Let us pray together...

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

**Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**—1 Corinthians 15:54-57, NRSV

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## 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:** 1 John 3:1-7

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<sup>1</sup>See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

<sup>4</sup> Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. <sup>5</sup>You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. <sup>6</sup>No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. <sup>7</sup>Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

**ANTHEM** “Sing to the Lord”

arr. Butler

**SECOND LESSON: Romans 3:21-26**

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**21** But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, **22** the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, **23** since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; **24** they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; **26** it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

**SERMON**

Healing Churches

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

Have you experienced healing in this Spiritual Family?

How can you provide space for others to experience the same?

**HYMN PH #630 BH #306**

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

## BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

**OFFERING**

Let us consider how God might be calling us to give to uphold the ministries of the church. Let us pray...

God of our salvation, you have restored us to life, you have brought us back again into your love by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ: continue to heal us as we go to live and work, serve and give in the power of your Spirit, to your praise and glory. 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 #251** "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

**CHARGE** - Ephesians 3:20-21, NRSV

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** "The Peace of God"

Wagner

**POSTLUDE**

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