



## 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.

6th Sunday of Easter, Communion  
May 5th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

#### RECOGNITION OF 40+ YEAR MEMBERS

It's not often in our society that we get to celebrate people who have been members of one church or one community for decades. But today—as part of our annual tradition we recognize those saints in our midst who have been members of this church family for 40 years or more. I'd like to ask those individuals to stand if they are able.

You may be seated. You may have noticed they're wearing a red carnation—please remember to say thank you to them for their involvement in this community.

Let us pray:

**We thank you, Lord God,  
For brave and believing people  
Who have been faithfully sharing your message in this place.  
Keep us close together in your Spirit,  
Breaking bread in faith and love.  
Remembering all those Christians who have gone before us  
May we follow as they followed,  
In the way, truth, and life of Christ Jesus  
The head of the church.  
Amen.**

#### INTROIT

#### CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 98

1 O sing to the LORD a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm  
have gotten him victory.

**2 The LORD has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

**4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

**6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

7 Let the sea roar and all that fills it,  
the world and those who live in it.

**8 Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy**

9 at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord,

the eyes of all look to You in hope;  
and You give them what they need.

You open Your hand  
and satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.

We, too, turn to You again, longing to be filled—  
to eat of the Bread of Life,

to drink from Your life-giving streams,  
to taste Your goodness and live.

May the time we spend together in Your presence  
nourish our hearts and minds;

may it strengthen our relationship with You,

and renew our commitment to live in this world as Your faithful disciples.

For You alone are God,

the Source and Sustainer of life.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

**HYMN PH #761 BH #343**

“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty God,

you spoke to your people in the pillar of cloud

as they walked together in the wilderness.

Speak to us through your Word today,  
 that we may hear you calling us  
 out of the wilderness places in our lives  
 and into new places you have promised to show us.  
 In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** Exodus 18:13-18

13 The next day Moses sat as judge for the people, while the people stood around him from morning until evening. 14 When Moses's father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?" 15 Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. 16 When they have a dispute, they come to me, and I decide between one person and another, and I make known to them the statutes and instructions of God." 17 Moses's father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. 18 You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people with you, for the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.

Proverbs 27

6 Well meant are the wounds a friend inflicts,  
 but profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

**ANTHEM**

Remember Me

Gene Grier/Lowell Everson

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Matthew 18:15-17

15 "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector.

**SERMON**

Separating from Others

Pastor Lindsey Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

What does it mean for you to have healthy boundaries?

What does it mean for you that God has healthy boundaries?

**OFFERING**

What we have been given let us share to the Glory of God and the benefit of others. Let us pray:

Merciful God,

the gifts we bring are so small in comparison to the vast needs in our world—  
 nowhere near enough to save the thousands dying of starvation all around the world,  
 or even to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless in our city.

Yet we have brought what we can.  
 As You once multiplied the five small loaves and two fish,  
 multiply these gifts as well,  
 so that, once again, the hungry may receive all they need, and more.  
 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**                      Be Thou My Vision                      Bob Chappelle ~ Trumpet

**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**

This is for you,  
 but it may change you  
 from one who is anxiously concerned  
 about their own redemption

into one who knows  
 that Jesus is the light of the world  
 and all who walk in it,  
 are one in Him

into knowing that  
 we are not redeemed  
 by our being good  
 but by our being connected

into knowing that  
 daring to eat  
 at the table of Jesus Christ  
 has unimaginable consequences.

So come,  
 come to be made whole,  
 and to participate in the work  
 of making us one with Him and each other.

**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:**

God loved this world so much that he sent his own son, Jesus the Christ, to live and die among us, in order that we might have life. Let us seek a life of forgiveness and mercy together, let us pray...

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

**O God, You who are always doing a new thing,  
we confess that we sometimes close windows  
against the fresh air of new ideas,  
against the noise of other people's worries,  
against the winds of change.**

**God of every place and time,  
we confess that we often draw the curtains  
against people who are different,  
against world news or community concerns.**

**Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes,  
our shuttered churches,  
the security systems on our hearts.  
Open up our lives,  
and let your Spirit blow through. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON:**

Scripture says that those who are in Christ are a new creation;  
everything old has passed away;  
see, the new has come!  
Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:  
'Your sins are forgiven.'

**Thanks be to God.**

**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.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Intercessions for the church and the world may be included here. 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.

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*The minister breaks the bread in full view of the people, saying:*

The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

*The minister lifts the cup, saying:*

In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me. Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes.

### **SHARING THE FEAST**

#### **COMMUNION PRAYER:**

O God, your Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples, and sent them into the world to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. By your Holy Spirit, hold the church in unity, and keep it faithful to your Word, so that, breaking bread together, we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service, now and forever. Amen.

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

#### **TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN**

**HYMN PH #465 BH #403** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

#### **CHARGE**

Go out into the world in peace;  
have courage;  
hold on to what is good;  
return no one evil for evil;

strengthen the fainthearted;  
support the weak, and help the suffering;  
honor all people;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**BENEDICTION** Remember Me

**POSTLUDE**

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

**Please join us in the Fellowship Hall.**