



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.

7th Sunday of Easter
May 12th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT A Joyful Ring

Bell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 108

I'm ready, God, so ready,
ready from head to toe.

Ready to sing,

ready to raise a God-song:

“Wake, soul! Wake, lute!

Wake up, you sleepyhead sun!”

I'm thanking you, GOD, out in the streets,
singing your praises in town and country.

The deeper your love, the higher it goes;
every cloud's a flag to your faithfulness.

Soar high in the skies, O God!

Cover the whole earth with your glory!

**And for the sake of the one you love so much,
reach down and help me—answer me!**

Who will take me to the thick of the fight?

Who'll show me the road to Edom?

**You aren't giving up on us, are you, God?
refusing to go out with our troops?**

Give us help for the hard task;
human help is worthless.

**In God we'll do our very best;
he'll flatten the opposition for good.**

OPENING PRAYER

God in Heaven your psalmist writes that those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
Tread after sinners or bench-warm with the scoffers are happy, because the wicked are like dry
chaff that the wind blows away.

May our delight today be in the law of the LORD,
and may we meditate on it day and night. So that we might stand confidently in your
judgment and have a place in the congregation of the righteous,

May we be like trees
planted by streams of water,
Yielding our fruit in its season, with leaves that do not wither.

In all that we do, prosper us Lord. Watch over us and may all in us that is wicked perish.
Amen.

HYMN PH #276 “Sing a New Song”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

We gather as God's people, believing the promises fulfilled in Christ. We do not need to confess
out of dread or fear, but in trust that God is faithful to forgive us and make us new. Join me as
we pray, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**How foolish we are, God Who Calls Us Out, to think we could be happy when we sit in
seduction's comfortable seats, and scoff at your call to discipleship; or run down the easy
streets of sin, rather than following Jesus; or idolize the celebrities and superstars, and not
see you in those who wait on us in stores, restaurants, and sport arenas.**

**Forgive us, Author of Life. Keep us from our silly selfishness as we seek to become those
branches children can climb on; as we hope to provide shade for fellow pilgrims;**

**as we long to be continually nourished by the Living Water of Jesus Christ, our Lord and
Savior.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

We are no longer blown about in the winds of the world, we are grounded, yesterday, today,
tomorrow in God's forgiveness, hope and love.

**Today, tomorrow, forever: we can bear fresh fruit, sharing God's peace and joy with
everyone we meet. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We do not notice, Holy God, but you give us:

Time,
so we can think about your Word;

Silence,
so it may fill our emptiness;

And wisdom,
so we may know the path to walk.

Bless this, the reading of your word. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 10:1-10

Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel.

2 Thus says the LORD:

Do not learn the way of the nations
or be dismayed at the signs of the heavens,
for the nations are dismayed at them.

3 For the customs of the peoples are false:

a tree from the forest is cut down
and worked with an ax by the hands of an artisan;

4 they deck it with silver and gold;
they fasten it with hammers and nails
so that it cannot move.

5 Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field,
and they cannot speak;

they have to be carried,
for they cannot walk.

Do not be afraid of them,
for they cannot do evil,
nor is it in them to do good.

6 There is none like you, O LORD;
you are great, and your name is great in might.

7 Who would not fear you, O King of the nations?

For that is your due;
among all the wise ones of the nations
and in all their kingdoms
there is no one like you.

8 They are both stupid and foolish;
the instruction given by idols
is no better than wood!

9 Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish
and gold from Uphaz.

They are the work of the artisan and of the hands of the goldsmith;
their clothing is blue and purple;

they are all the product of skilled workers.

10 But the LORD is the true God;
 he is the living God and the everlasting King.
 At his wrath the earth quakes,
 and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

ANTHEM Come to Me arr. Vivian Robles Dettbarn

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Ephesians 3:14-21

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. **16** I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit **17** and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. **18** I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth **19** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 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, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

SERMON Processing Pain Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

How does God respond to us when we don't live up to expectations?
 How can we nurture a God-like character in our hearts?

HYMN PH #735 "I Need Thee Every Hour"

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Let us give as Jesus has given to us, in humility to the Gospel and obedience to God.

As we offer our gifts, Lord, remind us that they will be used to heal the broken often lost in the systems we have created, to feed those who don't have the forms filled out correctly, and to bring hope to those who wander the shadowed alleys of despair. This we pray in the name of Jesus, 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

Mother's Day Blessing

Robbie Carnes

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

Heavenly Father, we seek your presence as we reflect on being Spirit-filled Christians in this world. We thank and praise you for your gift of the Holy Spirit, who works in the lives of our mothers and our children.

We thank you for the fruit of love. Scripture tells us to love one another as you have loved us. Help us to love our children with the unconditional love you have for us.

We thank you, Lord, for the joys of parenthood ... for the newborn baby, for first words, for bedtime prayers, for commitments made to serve you, for spiritual growth and maturity in our children. The joy of the Lord is our strength. Some of us don't know this joy, Lord. Our joy has been taken away by the unfulfilled desire for children, by miscarriage, or by the loss of a child. Others suffer pain because their parents are now in heaven with you, and they are deeply missed today. Restore joy where there is sorrow and loss.

We long for the peace that transcends understanding. When situations in our children's lives are uncertain, grant us your peace to guard our hearts and minds. Instill peace in the hearts of mothers who have the overwhelming task of raising a family by themselves. Thank you for your promise to be a father to the fatherless.

We confess that we do not always demonstrate the long-enduring patience with our own children that you show us. Forgive us when we are too demanding and expect too much too soon. Grant patience to those who long for a child. Hear their prayers as you heard the prayers of your servant Hannah.

Thank you for the kindness shown to each of us by our mothers. As our own parents face the difficulties of aging, help us to return kindness to them and honor them as your Word commands.

In a world where evil seems to be everywhere, may we demonstrate the goodness that Christ creates in our hearts. Let our children see us as light in darkness, as salt in a spoiling world, as a shelter in a storm.

For your faithfulness to each of us we give thanks. Thank you for faithful mothers who shared their faith with us—who spent time in prayer and reading Bible stories to us in our early years, teaching us to love and trust you.

Let our gentleness be evident to all who meet us, especially to those who share our home. Let the light of Christ shine in our lives to show our children the way to you.

We admit, Lord, that none of us are perfect parents. No matter how hard we may try on our own, we rely on you to keep us from sin. We cannot control ourselves without your Spirit working in our hearts, renewing us each day.

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit, loving one another in obedience to Christ.

In our Savior's name, Amen.

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 #475 BH #356 "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing"

CHARGE

From the comfort of this place,
to the discomfort of discipleship,

we will go to serve your people, Loving God.

Weeding community gardens which feed the hungry,
tutoring children after school,

we will go to wrap others in your grace,

Jesus our Brother.

Listening to the stories of the ignored,
learning the language of our newest neighbors,

we will go to discover the truth

you share in every moment, Spirit of Wisdom.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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