



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 Advent
December 10th, 2023 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;**

3 he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

**4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.**

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God, we have come to worship you as sinners in need of your forgiveness. We come tired from our work, in need of refreshment and re-creation. We come with worries, in need of your guidance. But first, please lift us out of our preoccupation with our own needs. Allow us to see you with the eyes of faith, and to hear with the ears of

understanding what you say to us. Make us thankful for all the good we have received from you. Awaken in us a longing to do what is right. And make us aware of the great company, past, present, and to come, with whom we join to worship you. Amen.

HYMN PH #1 BH #138 “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

CALL TO CONFESSION: 1 John 1:8, 9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)—Psalm 25:6-8, 11, 16-18, NRSV

Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. For your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great. Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress. Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.

DECLARATION OF PARDON —Psalm 32:1-2, NRSV

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. It is God who forgives in great mercy. Be at peace.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Ephesian 2:11-22

11 So then, remember that at one time you gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— 12 remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us, 15 abolishing the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, 16 and might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.

17 So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, 18 for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, 20 built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone; 21 in him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

ANTHEM Cheryl Kopplin and Bob Chappelle

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 4:6-12

6 Again, the LORD said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” He put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, his hand was diseased, as white as snow. 7 Then God said, “Put your hand back into your cloak”—so he put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored like the rest of his body— 8 “If they will not believe you or heed the first sign, they may believe the second sign. 9 If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to you, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.”

10 But Moses said to the LORD, “O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.” 11 Then the LORD said to him, “Who gives speech to mortals? Who makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? 12 Now go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.”

SERMON Excuses and Disappointment Pastor Isaac Chung

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

HYMN PH #451 BH #324 “Open My Eyes, that I May See”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

O God, who made of one blood all races and nations of earth, and sent your Son Jesus Christ to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Pour out your Spirit on the whole creation, bring the nations of the world into your fellowship, and hasten the coming of your kingdom. Grant that these gift be used to further your Kingdom, through 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 A Mighty Fortress Gary Smith, Bass

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 #700 BH #369 "I'm gonna live so, God can Use Me"

CHARGE Col. 3:17

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

BENEDICTION PH #540 BH #537 "Farewell, Good Friends!/ Shalom, Chaerim!"
(sing twice)

POSTLUDE

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