



## 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.

11th Sunday after Pentecost, Communion Sunday  
August 4th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE** To the Dawn ~ Sara Groves video

#### **WELCOME**

People of God, worship the living God today! Remember that out of nothing God created the heavens and earth. Remember that God raised Jesus from the powerlessness of death to the power of his right hand. Remember that not even the gates of hell can stand against God's purposes. Behold your God, who reigns now and forever!

**INTROIT PH #79** "Light Dawns on a Weary World"

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 78:23-29

**23** Yet he commanded the skies above  
and opened the doors of heaven;

**24 he rained down on them manna to eat  
and gave them the grain of heaven.**

**25** Mortals ate of the bread of angels;  
he sent them food in abundance.

**26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens,  
and by his power he led out the south wind;**

**27** he rained flesh upon them like dust,  
winged birds like the sand of the seas;

**28 he let them fall within their camp,  
all around their dwellings.**

**29** And they ate and were well filled,  
for he gave them what they craved.

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

Dear God, silence all voices within our minds but your own. Help us to seek and be able to follow your will. May our prayers be joined with those of our sisters and brothers in the faith, that together we may glorify your name and enjoy your fellowship forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**HYMN PH #81** "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken"

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word that we may truly understand; that, understanding, we may believe, and, believing, we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience, seeking your honor and glory in all that we do; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

**2** The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. **3** The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” **4** Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.

**9** Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’ ” **10** And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. **11** The LORD spoke to Moses, **12** “I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’ ” **13** In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. **14** When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. **15** When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.

**ANTHEM** “Lord I Want to be Christian”

Jennifer Love Hall  
Jennifer Joy Jocum

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Philippians 1:12-26

**12** I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually resulted in the progress of the gospel, **13** so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ, **14** and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear. **15** Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry but others from goodwill. **16** These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; **17** the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. **18** What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of

false motives or true, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, **19** for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my salvation. **20** It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way but that by my speaking with all boldness Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. **22** If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. **23** I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, **24** but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. **25** Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, **26** so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

**SERMON**            Yesterday, Today and Forever

Pastor Lindsey Carnes

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### **A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

How has God led you in the past?

Do you experience God's guidance now?

Where might God be leading you in the future?

#### **OFFERING**

Let us worship God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. Let us fulfill our promises to provide for the ministries of the church and recognize with our generosity that Jesus claims everything about us and therefore redeems everything about us, around us, in us, above us, and under us. Let us pray.

Eternal God, you create us by your power and redeem us by your love. Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves in love and service to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Bless these offerings to your work and will. 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.*

#### **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** Rev. 3:20; Ps. 34:8

Jesus said: Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open the door, I will come in to them and eat with them, and they with me. O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy are all who find refuge in God!

**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:** Heb. 4:14–16

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison) —Psalm 130, NRSV

Out of the depths I cry to you,

**O LORD. Lord, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

**If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?**

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

**I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.**

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

**DECLARATION OF PARDON:** —Psalm 103:8, 13-14, 17-18, NRSV

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

## COMMUNION

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### SHARING THE FEAST

### COMMUNION PRAYER:

O God, you have so greatly loved us, long sought us, and mercifully redeemed us. Give us grace that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills and our works, a continual thank-offering to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

## TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

**HYMN PH #65** "Guide Me Now, O Great Jehovah"

**CHARGE** Micah 6:8

God has shown you what is good. What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

**BENEDICTION** May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You ~Meredith Willson

May the good Lord bless and keep you

Whether near or far away

May you find that long awaited

Golden day today

May your troubles all be small ones

And your fortunes ten times ten

May the good Lord bless and keep you

Till we meet again

May you walk with sunlight shining

And a bluebird in every tree

May there be a silver lining

Back of every cloud you see

Fill your dreams with sweet tomorrows

Never mind what might have been

May the good Lord bless and keep you

Till we meet again

May the Good Lord bless and keep you,  
Whether near or far away.  
May the good you wish for others  
Shine on you today.

May your heart stay turned to music  
that will cheer the hearts of men.  
May the Good Lord bless and keep you  
Till we meet again.

May you long recall the rainbows  
Then you'll soon forget the rain.  
May the warm and tender memories  
Be the ones that will remain.

Fill your dreams with sweet tomorrows  
Never mind what might have been  
May the good Lord bless and keep you  
Till we meet again

## **POSTLUDE**

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