

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.

13th Sunday after Pentecost
August 18th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE You are With Me ~ Sandra McCracken video

WELCOME

INTROIT PH #634 BH #485 “To God be the Glory” (1st verse)

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 34:9-14

9 O fear the LORD, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.

**10 The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**

11 Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

**12 Which of you desires life
and covets many days to enjoy good?**

13 Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.

**14 Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.**

OPENING PRAYER

God, our Rock, our refuge, our resting place, we come to you. Out of another busy week of work, out of our struggles to be meaningful in our world, out of our desire to meet you and know you as the center of our being, we come to you, O unmovable Rock of our security. Amen.

HYMN PH #661 “Why Should I Feel Discouraged? (His Eye Is on the Sparrow)”

CALL TO CONFESSION - based on Psalm 66:16, 18-20, NRSV

The psalmist testifies: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer. Blessed be God,

because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me. In the strength of this assurance, let us confess our sins to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON - Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8, NRSV

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. 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.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid all the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Proverbs 9:1-6

- 1 Wisdom has built her house;
she has hewn her seven pillars.
- 2 She has slaughtered her animals; she has mixed her wine;
she has also set her table.
- 3 She has sent out her female servants; she calls
from the highest places in the town,
- 4 “You who are simple, turn in here!”
To those without sense she says,
- 5 “Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
- 6 Lay aside immaturity and live,
and walk in the way of insight.”

ANTHEM Somebody’s Knckin’ at Yo’ Door

Goerge Hameline

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 13:3-17

3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 If you have ears, hear!”

10 Then the disciples came and asked him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” 11 He answered, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 13 The reason I speak to them in parables is that ‘seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.’ 14 With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:

‘You will indeed listen but never understand,
and you will indeed look but never perceive.

15 For this people’s heart has grown dull,
and their ears are hard of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
so that they might not look with their eyes,
and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart and turn—
and I would heal them.’

16 “But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

SERMON Wondering with Jesus: Why Parables?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Imagine what the kingdom of heaven is like.

Draw or write what you imagine on the blank page provided in the worship bulletin. Put your page in the offering basket as a sign of your commitment to tend the soil of your heart.

HYMN PH #738 BH #357 “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Let us give freely in love. Remembering that Jesus gave to us even more deeply, freely, and lovingly than we can imagine. Let us pray...

Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people. In your great mercy, look with compassion on us as we give in our ignorance and our faithlessness. Expand our hearts as we give out of them so that we might joyfully join you in ministry. You are gracious, O lover of souls. To you we give glory, O blessed Trinity, now and forever. 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

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 ~ How to take care of a House Plant

HYMN PH #542 BH #540 "God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

CHARGE Col. 3:12-14

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience, forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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

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