



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.

15th Sunday after Pentecost, Communion
September 1st, 2024 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE “It Is Well With My Soul”

Arr. James Pethel

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 15

1 O LORD, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?

**2 Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right
and speak the truth from their heart;**

3 who do not slander with their tongue
and do no evil to their friends
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

**4 in whose eyes the wicked are despised
but who honor those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**

5 who do not lend money at interest
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

OPENING PRAYER —based on Ephesians 1:3-18

All glorious God, we give you thanks: in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. You chose us, before the world was made, to be your holy people, without fault in your sight. You adopted us as your children in Christ. You have set us free by his blood; you have forgiven our sins. You have made known to us your secret purpose, to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance. All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love. Amen.

HYMN PH #630 BH #306

“Fairer Lord Jesus”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord, you have given us your Word for a light to shine upon our path. Grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ANTHEM “His Eye Is On the Sparrow”

Arr. Jack Schrader

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 13:33, 44-52

Pg. 15

The Parable of the Yeast

33 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

Three Parables

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; 46 on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; 48 when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Treasures New and Old

51 “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” 52 And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

SERMON “The Kingdom of Heaven is like Yeast... Treasure... a Merchant... a Net”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Reflect on the seed of a dream, hope, project, or thought that is germinating within you. How might that seed grow into something that you could use to honor God and help build God’s kingdom?

Draw or write about your “seed” on the blank page provided in the worship bulletin. Put your page in the offering basket as a prayer for these seeds to grow and bear fruit.

OFFERING —Psalm 96:8-9, NRSV

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth. Let us pray...

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us— our selves, our time, and our possessions—signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us— 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 “Meditation on “KumBaYah”

Charles Callahan

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

Greeting: I am glad you and I are here to share this meal.

Response: I am glad that we are here together.

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: —based on Romans 8:39

We know that nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Lord, we are like sheep, and we get lost. We forget the needs of our neighbors and do not love you above all else. We need a Savior, so we long for Jesus. Come, fill our lives, Jesus. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON: —based on 2 Corinthians 4:6, NIV

May almighty God, who caused light to shine out of darkness, shine in our hearts, cleansing us from all our sins, and restoring us to the light of the knowledge of God's glory, in the face of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING****WORDS OF INSTITUTION****SHARING THE FEAST****COMMUNION PRAYER:****BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD****TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN ~ Yeast**

HYMN PH #39 BH #276 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

CHARGE

Go in peace to Love and serve the Lord.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Come, Labor On"

Peter Pindar Stearns

May the Peace of Christ be with you...

...And also with you!