



## 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.

16th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 8th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

1

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE** How Firm a Foundation Gilbert Martin

### WELCOME

**INTROIT** Seek the Lord Hal Hopson The Chancel Choir

### CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 125

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion,  
which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

**As the mountains surround Jerusalem,  
so the LORD surrounds his people,  
from this time on and for evermore.**

For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest  
on the land allotted to the righteous,  
**so that the righteous may not stretch out  
their hands to do wrong.**

Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,  
and to those who are upright in their hearts.

**But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways  
the LORD will lead away with evildoers.  
Peace be upon Israel!**

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**HYMN #394 BH #416** “Christ has made the Sure Foundation”

### CALL TO CONFESSION: —based on Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16, NRSV

The proof of God’s amazing love is this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Trusting in God’s faithfulness and compassion, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

**Awesome and compassionate God, you have loved us with unfailing, self-giving mercy, but we have not loved you. You constantly call us, but we do not listen. You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, as you come to us in mercy, we repent in spirit and in truth, admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**—Psalm 147:2-3, 5, NRSV

The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. Let us trust in God's great mercy for us and rest in his abounding love. Amen.

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Almighty God, you have spoken to us through your Son. Let your written Word now be spoken and heard by each of us. Give us ears to hear and hearts to understand, that we may not refuse your calling or ignore your voice. May we all be taught by you through your powerful Word. Bring our every thought captive to obeying Christ, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,  
and favor is better than silver or gold.

The rich and the poor have this in common:  
the LORD is the maker of them all.

Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,  
and the rod of anger will fail.

Those who are generous are blessed,  
for they share their bread with the poor.

Do not rob the poor because they are poor,  
or crush the afflicted at the gate;

for the LORD pleads their cause  
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

**ANTHEM** Lord of the Dance Arr. Allen Pote The Chancel Choir

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

**SERMON** The Kingdom of Heaven is like a King settling accounts    Pastor Robbie Carnes

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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

The pages that you have recorded your thoughts on these last few weeks have been placed in a large bowl of water on the Baptismal. Remember your baptism!

How is baptism a symbol of God’s forgiveness of our sin?

For what do you need to be forgiven?

To whom do you need to extend forgiveness?

**HYMN PH #754 BH #358** “Help Us Accept Each Other”

### BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

**OFFERING** —based on 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, NRSV

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Responding to God’s bountiful gifts to us in Christ, we have the opportunity to share out of our abundance. Let us pray...

Generous God, you have given us life, a place to live in, and people to live with. Open our eyes to each other and to all our brothers and sisters, especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated. Make us humble enough to help and comfort them, so that your love and justice and peace may come to them. We make bold to consecrate ourselves and our gifts to you and to the service of others, 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** Two Versets on “Love Divine”

Noel Rawsthorne

**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** Blowing Bubbles

**HYMN PH #66 BH #315** “Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

**CHARGE**—from Micah 6:8, NIV

God has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Go out to love and serve the Lord!

**BENEDICTION** The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Liftin

**POSTLUDE** Recessional on “St. Anne”

Gordon Young

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