

## 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.

19th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 29th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

1

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE** I Want Jesus to Walk With Me R. Howell

#### WELCOME

Surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your well-fare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

**INTROIT** Seek the Lord Hal Hopson

#### CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 124

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side

**let Israel now say**

if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,

**when our enemies attacked us,**

then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;

**then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;**

then over us would have gone the raging waters.

**Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.**

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers;

the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

**Our help is in the name of the LORD,**

**who made heaven and earth.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, your heart abounds with goodness, and your hand pours out abundance. We praise you for the continuous cycle of seedtime and harvest and the order of nature. We bless you for the beauty of autumn and its generous yield. We thank you that you are mindful of us and supply our needs. Accept our thanksgiving and our praise for the cycle of life and for all the joys of living. Amen.

**HYMN PH #667 BH #487** "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

## CALL TO CONFESSION

When we come into the holy presence of God, our own humanity is laid bare. When we stand in the living presence of truth, our own falsehood is revealed. People of God, let us acknowledge who we are and ask our ever-present God to forgive us.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**Lord God, we have given more weight to our successes and our happiness than to your will. We have eaten without a thought for the hungry. We have spoken without an effort to understand others. We have kept silence instead of telling the truth. We have judged others, forgetful that you alone are the Judge. We have acted rather in accordance with our opinions than according to your commands. Within your church we have been slow to practice love of our neighbors. And in the world we have not been your faithful servants. Forgive us and help us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF PARDON—Romans 8:15-17, NRSV

You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION—from Isaiah 55:10-11, NRSV

Dear God, As you make the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, may it be that Your word come to us today. May it not return empty, but may it accomplish Your purpose, and succeed in the thing for which You sent it. Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Hosea 2:14-23

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, I will now persuade her,  
and bring her into the wilderness,  
and speak tenderly to her.

<sup>15</sup> From there I will give her her vineyards,  
and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope.  
There she shall respond as in the days of her youth,  
as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.

<sup>16</sup> On that day, says the LORD, you will call me, ‘My husband’, and no longer will you call me, ‘My Baal’. <sup>17</sup> For I will remove the names of the Baals from her mouth, and they shall be mentioned by name no more. <sup>18</sup> I will make for you a covenant on that day with the wild animals, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I will make you lie down in safety. <sup>19</sup> And I will

take you for my wife forever; I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love, and in mercy. <sup>20</sup>I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> On that day I will answer, says the LORD,

I will answer the heavens  
and they shall answer the earth;

<sup>22</sup> and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and they shall answer Jezreel;

<sup>23</sup> and I will sow him for myself in the land.

And I will have pity on Lo-ruhamah,  
and I will say to Lo-ammi, ‘You are my people’;  
and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’

**ANTHEM** This Is My Father’s World  
Violinist ~ Alyssa Lucente

*arr. Elaine Hagenberg*

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. **3** When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, **4** but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. **5** As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. **6** But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ **7** Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. **8** The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ **9** But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ **10** And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. **11** Later the other young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ **12** But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ **13** Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**SERMON** The Kingdom of Heaven is like Bridesmaids Who Went Out to Meet the Groom  
Pastor Robbie Carnes

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What aspect of the kingdom of heaven are you being called to embody, either now or in the months ahead?

Listen to what God is calling you to.

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**      Worship Committee

**HYMN PH #362 BH #15**      “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

**BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**OFFERING** —based on 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NRSV

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. In joy, we offer our gifts now to God. Let us pray...

Take what is offered Lord and work your wonderful grace into it. Multiple it to do your work in this world; to be a blessing to your people and all of your creation. Grant that these gifts be wisely handled, graciously used, and produce a harvest 100 fold. 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**      Oh, Wasn't Dat a Wide Ribber  
Bob Patterson

*H.T. Burleigh*

**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, you make a pink flower from a gray seed, an ear from a kernel, a carrot from a seed the size of a pinhead, an oak tree from an acorn. You have programmed your soil to provide food for your plants, wooden trees to make apples, feathered hens to lay eggs, grass-eating cows to give milk. And you, grand Creator, you have us take care of your grand creation. In your mercy, Lord, send rain to water our crops and gardens. Let your sun shine on our fields so that seeds will produce abundantly, so that vines and stalks and trees will hang heavy with fruit and grain. And Lord, let your grace be as rich to our cattle as it is to us; let it keep our hogs free of disease, our hens laying eggs, and our cows giving milk. May our animals be fertile; may our lambs and calves and pigs frolic in your green pastures so that even in their play we may see your grace. Help us to live on your good earth— preserving and caring for the life and soil you bless, ever thankful that for our good you gave your laws of nature and your law of love. Help us for our good and your glory to see those laws as

you see them and as the psalmist saw them—as good and perfect, pleasant to think about. And Lord, teach us to share the abundance you have given us, never gloating in our excess but always giving our first bushels to feed the hungry in your name. Enlighten our hearts, Lord, so that our thank-yous ever rise in a crescendo to your throne. See and hear us through the blood of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

### **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** Seeded Paper

Today, our seeded paper is complete. As a tangible reminder of God’s calling, you are invited to take a piece of the seeded paper we’ve created and write a word or phrase on it that represents God’s call to you. Then take the seeded paper home, plant it, and see what blooms. Let the flowers be a reminder to you that God is ever present and is calling us to embody God’s kingdom.

### **HYMN PH #350** “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

#### **CHARGE** —1 Corinthians 16:13-14, NRSV

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

#### **BENEDICTION** Whatsoever You Do

Hal H. Hopson

#### **POSTLUDE** Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Robert Hobby

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