



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.

21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 13th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT Seek The Lord

Hal H. Hopson

CALL TO WORSHIP From Psalm 90

Teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

Turn, O LORD! How long?

Have compassion on your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.**

Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

**Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—**

O prosper the work of our hands!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN God Gather Us From Many Strands

Tune: TRURO, lyrics John A. Dalles

God, gather us from many strands,

To form the pattern of your hands,

That, in the weaving you have done

The handiwork is yours alone.

God, fashion us by your own Word,

To wear the imprint of our Lord,

And, make of us, in all our days,

A fabric of unceasing praise.

God, spread us out in faith, to act

As comforters to all who've lacked
 The strength to seek, the will to cope.
 O make of us a source of hope!

CALL TO CONFESSION:

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law. Together let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON—Psalm 32:1-2, NRSV

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. Let us rejoice in the forgiveness we have received through Jesus Christ.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Shine within our hearts, loving Lord, with the true light of your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our minds, that we may comprehend the message of your Word, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 28:10-17

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Jacob's Dream at Bethel

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. **11** He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. **12** And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. **13** And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, **14** and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. **15** Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." **16** Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" **17** And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

ANTHEM “On Eagles Wings”

Arr. Edwin Earle Ferguson

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 1:9-15

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9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. **11** And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. **13** He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God **15** and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

SERMON The Kingdom of Heaven is Within Our Reach Pastor Lindsey Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

MOMENT FOR TESTIMONY

Rita Vadez~ Frontera de Cristo

HYMN PH #408 BH #398

“There’s a Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Romans 12:1 : So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life— your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life— and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Let us pray...

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care. As we contribute to the needs of your people, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Through 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

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

HYMN PH #275 BH #260 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

CHARGE—Ephesians 3:20-21, NRSV

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION "God Gather Us From Many Strands"

Tune: TRURO, lyrics John A. Dalles

God, gather us from many strands,
To form the pattern of your hands,
That, in the weaving you have done
The handiwork is yours alone.

POSTLUDE

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