



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.

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
October 20th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT This is the Day that the Lord has Made

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 104

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

**You are clothed with honour and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.**

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,

**you make the clouds your chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind,**

you make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.

**You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.**

You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.

**At your rebuke they flee;
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.**

They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys
to the place that you appointed for them.

**You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.**

Bless the Lord, O My Soul.

Praise the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

O God, you summon the day to dawn, you teach the morning to waken the earth. For you the valleys shall sing for joy, the trees of the field shall clap their hands. For you the kings of the

earth shall bow, the poor and the persecuted shall shout for joy. Your love and mercy shall last forever, fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise. Great is your name. Great is your love. Amen.

HYMN #401 "Here in This Place"

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)

Lord Jesus Christ, you came to serve. As you came to a blind man and gave him sight, come to us in our darkness and show us the things we cannot see. As you came to a man tormented in his mind and gave him peace and healing, come to us in our tensions and make us whole. As you came to Lazarus, who was dead, and brought him from the grave, come to us in our deadness and bring us to real life now with our living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you came not to be served but to serve. But we see life the other way round: to get where we do not give, to exploit whom we have not helped, to use what we have not earned. As you came to a dying thief and promised him paradise, come to us now in forgiveness and give us hope. In your name, Lord, we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON—John 3:16-17, NRSV

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Father, our Father in heaven, compel us all simply to take you at your Word. Touch us with the Holy Spirit, we pray, and do not let us get away from your Word without being caught by its promises and powerful joy. We pray this for our sake, Father, and for those whom we love, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Job 19:25-27

25 For I know that my vindicator lives
and that in the end he will stand upon the earth;
26 and after my skin has been destroyed,
then in my flesh I shall see God,
27 whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not another.
My heart faints within me!

ANTHEM "He is the Rock"

arr. Barrett

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 12:22-32

22 He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. **23** For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. **24** Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! **25** And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? **26** If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? **27** Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. **28** But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! **29** And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. **30** For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. **31** Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. **32** “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

SERMON The Kingdom of Heaven has Come Near Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

What does it mean to you that the Kingdom of Heaven is here now?

Do you have a story about how you have seen the Kingdom of Heaven joyfully restore things around you? Who can you share this with?

MOMENT FOR MISSION Congregational Outreach

HYMN PH #363 BH #155 Rejoice, the Lord is King!

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

(If you would like a written prayer request included in our prayers today, please indicate that and an usher will collect them)

(Financial Offerings can be placed in dropbox located in the New Narthex)

Will the Ushers Please come forward.

OFFERTORY “Shaker Melody” Cheryl Kopplin, Brian Lewis, George Hameline

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 #511 “Come, Behold! The Feast of Heaven”

CHARGE—Jude 24-25

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! **Amen!**

BENEDICTION “God Gather Us From Many Strands”

Tune: TRURO, lyrics John A. Dalles

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.

POSTLUDE

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