



## 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.

**Deacon Sunday**  
**October 27th, 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 103

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.

**2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits-**

3 who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,

**4 who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**21 Bless the LORD, all his hosts,  
his ministers who do his will.**

22 Bless the LORD, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

#### OPENING PRAYER

O risen Christ,

On the road to Emmaus you were the disciples' companion.

Be at our side on the journey of faith

on life's pathways and at every encounter,

engender our compassion,

so that we may welcome others and listen to their stories.

Kindle anew the desire to proclaim your Word.

May it illumine us and may our hearts burn to bear witness to it.

May your Holy Spirit teach us the art of explaining scripture  
and open our eyes to recognize you.

Grant us the courage to become vulnerable  
so that our sisters and brothers may know you through us  
and that we may know you through them.

Amen.

**HYMN PH #475 BH #356** “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Because we trust in God's covenant faithfulness, we are free to make our confession to  
God and call for his compassion.

Let us, therefore, confess our sins that we may be renewed in his grace.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Congregation to join on the bold text)

O Master, great and awesome God. You never waver in your covenant commitment, never  
give up on those who love you and do what you say.

**Yet we have sinned in every way imaginable. We've done evil things, rebelled, dodged  
and taken detours around your clearly marked paths.**

Compassion is our only hope, the compassion of you, the Master, our God, since in our  
rebellion we've forfeited our rights.

**Master, you are our God, for you delivered your people from the land of Egypt in  
such a show of power that people are still talking about it!**

**We confess that we have sinned, that we have lived bad lives.**

Turn your ears our way, God, and listen. Open your eyes and take a long look at us, your  
people named after you.

**We know that we don't deserve a hearing from you. Our appeal is to your  
compassion.**

**This prayer is our last and only hope:**

**Master, listen to us!**

**Master, forgive us!**

**Through Christ, your Lamb, our Lord. Amen.**

### **DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as you choose again this day to love God and to love one  
another know that God has forgiven you that which is past and offers to you a new and full  
life. Praise be to the name of God, now forever. Amen.

Hear the good news concerning the love and forgiveness of God:

*“As far as the east is from the west,  
so far does God remove our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children,*

*so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;  
for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust.”*

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God of majesty and might,  
blow through this place like a mighty wind.  
Speak to us, through your word, so that we might be inspired by your presence.  
Cover us with your love,  
that we might be your people,  
serving others with care and compassion.  
In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

### **PSALM LESSON: Psalm 103**

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits-
- 3 who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
- 5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.
- 6 The LORD works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 He will not always accuse,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.
- 10 He does not deal with us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
- 12 as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

- 13** As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.
- 14** For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.
- 15** As for mortals, their days are like grass;  
they flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16** for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.
- 17** But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting  
on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,
- 18** to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.
- 19** The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.
- 20** Bless the LORD, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding,  
obedient to his spoken word.
- 21** Bless the LORD, all his hosts,  
his ministers who do his will.
- 22** Bless the LORD, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul.

**ANTHEM**      O Love                      Elaine Hagenburg

**GOSPEL LESSON:** Luke 10:30-37

30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

**EPISTLE LESSON:** Colossians 3:12-17

**12** Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. **13** Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. **17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**SERMON**

Compassion

Deacon Clark Casteel

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**HYMN PH #451 BH #324** "Open My Eyes That I May See"

## BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

**OFFERING**

Compassionate God,

Open our eyes that they may see the deepest needs of people;

Move our hands that they may feed the hungry;

Touch our hearts that we may bring warmth to the despairing;

Teach us the generosity that welcomes strangers;

Let us share our possessions to clothe the naked;

Give us the care that strengthens the sick;

Make us share in the quest to set the prisoner free.

In sharing our anxieties and our love,

our poverty and our prosperity,

we partake of your divine presence. Use these gifts and even ourselves to work your will in this world to your glory. 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**

Compassionate God,

You have compassion enough for all.

Lord in your mercy,

Have compassion for us.

Jesus, out of your compassion for us,

you invite us to come away with you

to a place of rest and quiet.

Help us to say yes and then

to be able to come away with you.

Lord in your mercy,

Have compassion for us.

Lord, out of your compassion you care for

Those who are harassed, helpless, and

Lost. Sometimes we feel that way ourselves

Lord in your mercy,

Have compassion for us.

We pray for those who need your compassion now...

Lord in your compassion teach us to follow you,

to trust you, to love you and to love as you love.

Lord in your compassion feed us who are hungry;

Physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Lord in your compassion heal us in the places we need healed.

Lord in your mercy,

Have compassion for us.

And Lord in your having compassion for us

Teach us to have compassion for others as you do.

Help us to show compassion in action the way you did.

And remind us when it is time to come away with you

for quiet and rest.

Lord in your mercy,

Have compassion for us.

**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 #610 BH #466** "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

**CHARGE** based on Psalm 103

As you go from here, remember this:

God's love is from everlasting to everlasting,  
from generation to generation.

Just as a father has compassion on his children  
so God has compassion on those fear him,  
who listen to his voice,  
and who do his will.

Go out in the knowledge  
that the everlasting love of God goes with you.

Amen.

**BENEDICTION** "God Gather Us From Many Strands"  
Tune: TRURO, lyrics John A. Dalles

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!

**POSTLUDE**

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