



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.

25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 10th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT A Joyful Ring

Bell Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 146

1 Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**2 I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

3 Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

**4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.**

5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,

**6 who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;**

7 who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

8 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

**9 The LORD watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

10 The LORD will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

OPENING PRAYER

We praise you Lord because you gather up outcasts, heal their broken hearts and bind up their wounds. You determine the number of stars and give each of them a name. Your power is abundant, your understanding is beyond measure. And yet, you lift up the downtrodden pushing the wicked aside. You take pleasure in those who fear you and in those who hope in your steadfast love.

Declare your word to us today that we might turn to you. Teach us your ordinances so that we might walk in your ways. Fill us with your Spirit today so that we might extol your name to the nations and worship you rightly in this place. Amen.

HYMN PH #307 BH #420 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

CALL TO CONFESSION: from Hebrews 9: 27-28

Everyone has to die once, then face the consequences. Christ’s death was also a one-time event, but it was a sacrifice that took care of sins forever. And so, when he next appears, the outcome for those eager to greet him is, precisely, *salvation*.

In Holy eagerness, let us approach our God together in repentance...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

We confess that sometimes we are cynical and tempted to think nothing will ever change, but you are a God that never gives up. Make us willing to walk into hard places.

We confess that we are combative, and our words can be harsh, judgemental, and full of rage, but you are a God who on the cross saw those who betrayed you, and yet, chose to forgive those who knew not what they were doing. Help us to see others as those for whom you died.

We confess that sometimes we are exhausted and tempted to despair, believing you have abandoned us, but you are a God who will hold us close and restore our soul. Make us recipients of your love, so we may give your love to others.

DECLARATION OF PARDON —Isaiah 53:4-6, NRSV

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Praise God, the Good Shepherd, who care for the flock bringing us all into salvation. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord God, may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 2:10-15

Pg. 2

⁸ Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹ The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin^[d] and onyx are also there.) ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.^[e] ¹⁴ The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

ANTHEM

“Wings of the Dawn”

Spencer

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Revelation 22:1-5

Pg. 260

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

SERMON

Elder Larry Zimble

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN PH #69 BH 525

“I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I am, Lord)”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Jesus saw a poor widow putting two small copper coins into the temple treasury. He told his disciples that she had contributed more than those who had given out of their abundance. Let us give then, as we are called by God to give. And let us give out of our poverty, trusting that God will amplify our gifts according to his will and his work in the world. Let us pray...

God in Heaven, accept these gifts and use them so that your presence in this world would be made known. Promote peace! Extend grace! Build us up in your image so that we might rightly represent you in our world. 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 “Come Christians Join To Sing”

Bell Choir

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

As Christians, we believe that prayer is the most important part of the thankfulness God requires of us. We also believe that God gives his grace and Holy Spirit only to those who pray continually and groan inwardly, asking God for these gifts and thanking him for them. The following are the prayer requests that we offer as God’s people today.....

Let us pray...

O Lord God, Creator above us, Spirit within us, Lord ahead of us, open us to yourself, that we may become transparent to ourselves.

Make us masters of ourselves, that we may be the servants of others.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we bless you for the gift of our lives. We bless you for the invisible fibers of loyalty and trust that bind us to the people we love and care for, for fidelity in our marriages, for care and love for our children, for the gifts you’ve allowed us to discover within ourselves, and for the gifts other people have given us by giving of themselves.

We bless you for useful jobs to do, for leisure to enjoy, for fun to have, for homes to live in, for bodies to touch, for love to share. We pray to you for our friends and the people we care about, for people whose life has somehow become boring and lusterless, whose marriages have lost their tenderness, whose health is poor, whose hope for the years ahead is dim, and whose death is near. We pray for peace.

Let all who think lightly of making war be converted to think strongly of making peace.

We pray for people for whom today is another day of trying to find something to eat, for people in our world for whom today is another day lived under the yoke of oppression, for people who have no friends and are desperately lonely, for people who have lost somebody so close to them that they are almost dying with grief, and for people today who are dying.

O Spirit of Christ, give us a joy that outlasts our sorrows, give us a hope stronger than the

despair of our discouragement, and give us a new belief that we have reason to rejoice— to be glad for who we are because you made us and gave us life, and all we have is a gift from you. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, 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

HYMN PH #463 BH #361

“How Firm a Foundation”

CHARGE —Matthew 22:37-40, TM

Jesus said: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’

This is the most important, the first on any list.

But there is a second to set alongside it: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’

These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.”

Go now to Love and Serve the Lord!

BENEDICTION This is the Day

Hopson

POSTLUDE

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