



## 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.

Baptism of the Lord Sunday  
January 12th, 2024 10:00 a.m.

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### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**PRELUDE** "Prelude in C" J.S. Bach Harp, Julie Hussar

### WELCOME

**INTROIT** "Sing a New Song Unto the Lord"

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 147:12-20

12 Extol the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

**13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates;  
he blesses your children within you.**

14 He grants peace within your borders;  
he fills you with the finest of wheat.

**15 He sends out his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.**

16 He gives snow like wool;  
he scatters frost like ashes.

**17 He hurls down hail like crumbs—  
who can stand before his cold?**

18 He sends out his word and melts them;  
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

**19 He declares his word to Jacob,  
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

20 He has not dealt thus with any other nation;  
they do not know his ordinances.

**Praise the LORD!**

## OPENING PRAYER

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! You have blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. You chose us in Christ, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before You in love. You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of your will. In Jesus we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of your grace. Thank you for calling us your own and gathering us as a spiritual family.

**HYMN PH #634 BH #485**      “To God be the Glory”

## CALL TO CONFESSION:

Let us come before our Lord and be honest about who we are and commit to being who we should be. Let us pray...

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

**Merciful God, in baptism you grafted us into the body of Christ, promising us forgiveness of sin and newness of life. But we fail to live as forgiven people. We keep destructive habits and hold grudges. We allow our past to hold us hostage and are reluctant to welcome newness. In your loving-kindness have mercy on us and free us from sin. Remind us of the promises you have made to us in baptism so that we may live as your people, claimed in the waters of promise. Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF PARDON —based on 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.

Praise God that in the power of the Spirit we are joint heirs with Christ!

We see the love of God at Christ’s baptism.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord God, gracious and merciful, you anointed your beloved Son with the Holy Spirit at his baptism in the Jordan, and you consecrated him prophet, priest, and king. As we hear your word today, pour out your Spirit on us again that we may be faithful to our baptismal calling, ardently desire the communion of Christ's body and blood, and serve the poor of your people and all who need your love, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** Jeremiah 31:7-14

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**7** For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
proclaim, give praise, and say,  
“Save, O LORD, your people,  
the remnant of Israel.”

**8** See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north  
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
among them the blind and the lame,  
those with child and those in labor together;  
a great company, they shall return here.

**9** With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations I will lead them back;  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

**10** Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him  
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

**11** For the LORD has ransomed Jacob  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

**12** They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
 and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
 their life shall become like a watered garden,  
 and they shall never languish again.

**13** Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
 and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy;

I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

**14** I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
 and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
 says the LORD.

**ANTHEM** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** John 1:10-18

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**10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

**SERMON** Remembering Our Baptism

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Do you remember when or where you were baptized?  
What does that day mean to you today?

### WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

**HYMN PH #840** “When Peace Like a River (It is Well With My Soul)”

## BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

### OFFERING

With thankfulness we give in gratitude and joy. With prayerfulness we give in sacrifice and love. With hopefulness we give in commitment to God. Let us pray...

God of extravagant mercy, with hands outstretched you have poured out wonder and pleasure and delight, goodness and beauty and bounty. So take these offerings, we pray, as our protest against all that is evil and ugly and impoverished, trivial and wretched and tyrannical, in our world and in ourselves— and thus may we and others know ourselves to be blessed. 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** “My Shepherd Will Supply My Needs/ Amazing Grace”  
Harp, Julie Hussar

### 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 #547** “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

### CHARGE

In Jesus we stand to inherit great things and As His heirs, we are predestined *to play a key role* in His *unfolding* purpose that is energizing everything to conform to His will. As a result, we - who place our hope in the Anointed One—will live in a way to bring Him glory and praise. Because you, too, have heard the word of truth—the good news of your salvation—and because you believed *in the One who is truth*, your lives are marked with His seal. This is *none other than* the Holy Spirit who was promised as the guarantee toward the inheritance we are to receive when He frees and rescues all who belong to Him. To God be all praise and glory!

**BENEDICTION** “To God Be the Glory” (reprise)

### POSTLUDE

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