



## 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.

2nd Sunday after Epiphany  
January 19th, 2025 10:00 a.m.

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### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

INTROIT “Rejoice the Lord is King”

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit of God has called us to this place and time.

**We gather to hear God’s liberating word of love.**

Today, past and future meet in the holiness of now.

**May the Spirit of God at work in Jesus, also work in us.**

May the vision of flourishing for all be imprinted on our hearts.

**And may it be enacted in our lives!**

#### OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we gather this morning in this house of worship which, thanks to your love, is our home away from home. We come to add our human voices to the chorus of praise raised by your creation! We come as we are – distracted and weary, hopeful and open – know that you accept us and are ever mindful of our cares and joys. Still in us now the many voices that clamor for attention, that we might center ourselves upon you. Speak to us in word and melody and quiet, that we may be renewed in our faith and strengthened for your service.

**HYMN PH #624 BH #457 “I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art”**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Divine Designer, we often expect uniformity in our faith – even when we are each uniquely created by you, God. But even in our demand for uniformity, we forget our bonds to all other people and creation here on earth.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

**More often than we think, we neglect the great connection between God, neighbor, creation, and ourselves. Sweep away our biases, God. Heal our torn connections. Inspire us to develop a world filled with healthy joints and synapses which will build relationships and communications. Amen.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

God, the Great Healer, will mend our torn souls and wounded hearts. God will call us to repair ripped connections as God desires for us to be whole. With gratitude, we seek ways in which we can heal our world. Amen!

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Fulfilled before us, in our ears, O God, the Scripture in the voice we hear, the voice of Jesus who recalls the good news preached unto the poor, release of captives, sight to blind and liberty to those oppressed. As in our ears is all fulfilled so now, Lord God, fulfill it in the mercy we become in love. Amen

**FIRST GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 4:16-21**The Rejection of Jesus at Nazareth**

**16** When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17** and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

**18** “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set free those who are oppressed,  
**19** to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

**20** And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. **21** Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Colossians 2:13-15

**13** And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, **14** erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. **15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

**ANTHEM** “Here I Am Lord”

**SECOND GOSPEL LESSON:** John 14:6-14

**6** Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

**8** Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” **9** Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. **11** Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. **12** Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

**SERMON** The Kingdom of Heaven and the Cross

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

How can it be that Heaven’s enemies have been defeated on the cross?

What does that mean to you?

How do we live into the hope of the Kingdom of Heaven’s victory?

**HYMN PH #343 BH #408** “Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life”

## BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

### OFFERING

The wonderful works of God surround us. How will we show our gratitude? The generosity of God exceeds all our limits. How will our manner of life reflect the abundance of God's mercy? Surely our offerings are one measure of our response. Let us present to the Lord the fruits of our lives and our labors. Let us pray...

Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives. Though many different amounts and ways, when gathered up by you, our gifts become a food pantry, a rebuilt life, medicine for children, a caregiver to the lonely - your grace in action. In love we offer these gifts in the name of Jesus. 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 #772 BH #332 "Live into Hope"**

**CHARGE**

May the same Spirit that anointed Jesus, anoint you anew.

May the same grace at work in Jesus, be active in you.

May the good news declared by Jesus, be proclaimed by you in word and deed.

And may the world know that the year of God's favor is at hand.

Thanks be to God! Amen and Amen!

**BENEDICTION** “The Peace of God”

**POSTLUDE**

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