



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.

4th Sunday after Epiphany Communion
February 2nd, 2025 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT “I Love You, Lord”

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Please rise if you are able)*

God of Mary and Martha, open our eyes to our roles and responsibilities.

Help us to gaze outside the boundaries of the familiar.

Let us join our hearts together in thanks and praise.

We join and lean into divine connection.

Come and open our hearts and minds to divine opportunities.

We come with open hearts and minds.

OPENING PRAYER

God of miracles and transformations, come to us now as we seek to move through distractions. Speak your divine love into our hearts. Help us to feel the revelations in your world, and move us to strengthen our bonds with neighbors, community, and families. We pray all of this in the name of the resurrected Savior. Amen.

HYMN PH #300 “We Are One in the Spirit”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of extravagant grace, may your Spirit refresh our hearts through the reading of the scriptures that we may perceive all the good we can do for Christ and so grow in our faith toward our Lord Jesus. Amen.

FIRST EPISTLE LESSON 1 John 4:7-12

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

ANTHEM "We Will Remember You"

SECOND EPISTLE LESSON 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

SERMON What's Love Got to Do with It? Affection and Familial Love
Pastor Lindsey Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you been loved like this? What aspect of this kind of love reveals God's character? In what ways is the Spirit calling you to love more fully?

OFFERING *(Please be seated)*

In most families, each person has a role and responsibility to the family. As the family of God and body of Christ, we likewise share in this. Each of us has gifts and talents, different ways in which we are called to serve; and that is what makes the body of Christ, the church, as unique as it is. God also calls us to give and reminds us in 2 Corinthians 9:6 that "whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of us should give what we have decided in our hearts to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

This means just as each of us has different talents, we are all able to give differently. Whatever your gift is, the Lord says give it generously and cheerfully.

God it is with grateful hearts that we come thanking you for bringing us into your family through Jesus' gift of love to us. And for that, we owe you everything. So today, God, with love and thanksgiving, we give to you now these offerings that they might be used for the building of your Kingdom and spreading the Gospel, here and everywhere.

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.

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may be forgotten, yet I will not forget you. As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you, says the Lord. (Isaiah 49:15; 66:13)

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.

CALL TO CONFESSION

There come those moments when we stand exposed, our failings, our hurtful words, our harmful ways open for all to see. But God takes these moments, and these sins, redeeming them through compassion are love, making us new people, children of the Living God. Let us come, in these moments, with our prayers to the One who waits to forgive us and make us whole. Please join me as we pray together, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

We carry our fears around with us like so much pocket lint, Compassionate Heart, when you would take them and toss them aside, spent and useless. You invite us to sit and chat with someone who wants to know more about you, but we are busy running errands. You give us a simple command—to love—and we complicate it with rules, worries, and doubts.

Forgive us, Vine Grower. You have planted those seeds of mercy, of hope, of grace deep within us, so we might bear rich and nourishing fruit for others. May we not get in the way of your Gardener, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, who will use the Holy Spirit to bring forth an abundant crop.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

God abides in you! God is breathing, living, forgiving, restoring you in this moment, and in the days to come. This is the good news for us!

**As God is in us, so we can live, work, care for others, so that love, hope and joy might touch all people. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven.
Amen.**

COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Our Lover invites us to His table.

**We are so happy to hear His voice,
We are excited to share this meal with Him.**

He has prepared a feast for us; the table is laden with good things – the bread of life, the cup of salvation.

We are so thankful to receive the Lord's gifts,

We are so blessed to enjoy the Lord's Presence.

All are welcome at this meal; All are loved and all are invited to receive God's abundance and enjoy it freely.

We meet at this table with all of God's children; Glory to God on the earth Glory to God now and always For God's love is never ending.

We remember and celebrate how God made His love known to us. Jesus lived among us, and taught us to love God, and to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. But, His clearest, most powerful act of love, was His choice to lay down His life so that we might find ours. On the eve of His death He gave us this sacred meal to remind us of all He did and said; While He and His friends were eating,

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

He took bread and blessed it, Then He broke it and passed it around: This is my body broken for You; Eat it as a way to remember Me and My love for you.

After the meal, He took wine and blessed it, Then He passed it among His friends: This is my blood poured out for You; Drink it as a way to remember Me and My love for you.

And so now again we eat and we drink, And we proclaim Jesus' life and death, His love and mercy; And we open our hearts to this Lover once more.

SHARING THE FEAST

COMMUNION PRAYER

Thank You, God of our hearts, for this meal and the love it expresses; for Your sacrifice and the intimacy with You that it brings; for Your commitment to reconcile the world to Yourself.

We have shared the bread and the wine, we have experienced the love and compassion of God, and we have remembered the mission of Jesus, which we are called to continue;

May Your love, Your friendship and Your undeserved acceptance fill us, change us and inspire us that the world may grow into a place where all of God's children know they have found a home for all eternity.
Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN

HYMN PH #366 BH #376 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

CHARGE

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, our savior and friend;
May the love of God, binding us together and building us up;
May the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, knitting us together as a church family; Be with us until we meet again.

BENEDICTION "The Peace of God"

POSTLUDE

May the Peace of Christ be with you...
...And also with you!