



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.

5th Sunday after Epiphany
February 9th, 2025 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT “Come Christians, Joy to Sing”

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

God of benevolence, be with us as we seek to love deeply.

We meet you in love.

Jesus, friend of all, lead us into relationships in truth.

We meet you in truth.

Spirit of divine wind, move us to form friendships in hope.

We meet you in hope.

We seek you; we follow you; we are moved by you! Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, you cast your net of love to all people near and far. Let your divine spirit fill us today as we praise you. Open our hearts and let the loving breath of the spirit guide us to live, grow, and lead as we build our own nets of connection and friendship. We do all of this in your holy name. Amen.

HYMN #761 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”

CALL TO CONFESSION

While we may yearn to be like Jesus, we know that in our hotheaded choices, our frantic lives, our impetuous words, we are too often like Peter. But like him, we can confess Christ as our Lord, speaking of our need for God’s saving presence in our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Lord, Your word says love is patient and kind.

But we confess the times when we have been impatient and unkind.

Your word tells us that love does not envy,
that it does not boast, and that it is not proud.

But we confess that sometimes we have been envious, and boastful, and proud.

Your word says that love is not rude, and that it is not self-seeking,

But we confess that in many ways we have been inconsiderate of those around us, thinking only of ourselves.

Your word tells us that love is not easily angered,
and that it keeps no record of wrongs.

**But we confess how quickly we fly off the handle,
and how carefully we keep score when we have been wronged.**

Your word says that love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth, that it
always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

**Help us, Lord, not to take pleasure in what is evil,
but to always rejoice in the truth of Your love.**

**Protect us with Your love, Lord,
and help us to choose the way of trusting You,
putting our hope in You,
and persevering in Your ways,
knowing that love never fails,
and that You never fail. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

God is faithful and ever-present. The God who knew us before our birth loves us
still and strengthens us, that we will one day be blameless. Through the gift of
Jesus Christ, God offers forgiveness, grace, and mercy. Enter into the light!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive
what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Proverbs 27:17; Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

17 Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens the wits of another.

9 Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. **10** For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. **11** Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? **12** And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

ANTHEM “Come Thou Fount”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 15:12-17; I Corinthians 13:1-3

12 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command you. **15** I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. **17** I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

13 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? Friendship

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?

HYMN PH #753 "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING *(Please be seated)*

It's no secret that loving often involves giving. In our sermon today we heard about how to love and reach people, and how to build relationships in our communities. We invite you to give today as our ministry seeks to continue loving and reaching people and being a blessing to our community and people around the world. Part of our resources goes toward our global missions that continue to reach new people and offer aid and relief to people near and far.

Loving God, we seek to honor you in our gifts, our service, our lives, and our love for others. Receive now our tithes and offerings, and may the life we live also be an offering to you. We pray this prayer in the name of the One who gave the greatest gift of all, Jesus our Savior. 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

Your love is patient;
we give you thanks for all those who have been patient with us
and have taught and cared for us;
and we pray for the patience to love others
as you have loved us.

Your love is kind;
give us the courage to be kind to others
and to serve those with patience
who are so often unkind, rude, difficult to love, or our enemies.
They are your children and our sisters and brothers
and they were made in your image.

Your love is not pompous;
give us insight to speak the truth in love
and for the sake of your kingdom
and not out of a need to appear clever or right
and in all our relationships
give us the wisdom to listen far more than we speak.

Your love does not seek its own interests;
we thank you and pray for those who serve the poor and those in need,
who give tirelessly of themselves and who have much to do
and little time for themselves.

Your love is not quick-tempered;
we pray for those who are angry
and for the violent and their victims;
for children who fear, elders who are abused,
and people trapped in relationships that injure and harm.

Your love bears all things;
we remember before you those with heavy burdens,
many cares, much stress, and too little comfort and help.
Open our eyes to those around us and their needs
and give us the wisdom to offer help
without any prying or sense of superiority.

Your love never fails;
even death does not trespass on the breadth and depth of your love.
We thank you for those we have loved in this life
and who now dwell in the peace and joy of your presence

and let your comfort settle on those who are bereaved
or who are lonely this day.

In the name of Jesus we pray. 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 #465 “What a Friend We Have In Jesus”

CHARGE

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

BENEDICTION “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

POSTLUDE

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