



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.

7th Sunday after Epiphany
February 23rd , 2024 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT “Majesty”

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

- 1 Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
- 2 for they will soon fade like the grass
and wither like the green herb.**
- 3 Trust in the LORD and do good;
live in the land and enjoy security.**
- 4 Take delight in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
- 6 He will make your vindication shine like the light
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**
- 7 Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out evil devices.**
- 8 Refrain from anger and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- 9 For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.**
- 10 Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.**
- 11 But the meek shall inherit the land
and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.

OPENING PRAYER

All glorious God, we give you thanks: in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. You chose us, before the world was made, to be your holy people, without fault in your sight. You adopted us as your children in Christ. You have set us free by his blood; you have forgiven our sins. You have made known to us your secret purpose, to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance. All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love. Amen.

HYMN PH #298 BH #429 “Lord, You Give The Great Commission”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way, that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Eternal and merciful God, you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding, and you have set us on paths of righteousness for your name’s sake. Yet we have strayed from your way; we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, through what we have done and what we have left undone. As we remember the lavish gift of your grace symbolized in baptism, O God, we praise you and give you thanks that you forgive us yet again. Grant us now, we pray, the grace to die daily to sin, and to rise daily to new life in Christ, who lives and reigns with you, and in whose strong name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Take comfort in the assurance that even those things that are hidden from memory, or are too deep for our words, are not beyond God’s forgiving love. God, who knows us completely, bestows pardon and peace. **Thanks be to God.**

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We pray, Lord, that you will open the door of our hearts to receive you within our hearts. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 15: 7-11

7 “If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. 8 You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. 9 Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, ‘The seventh year, the year of remission, is near,’ and therefore view your needy neighbor with hostility and give nothing; your neighbor might cry to the LORD against you, and you would incur guilt. 10 Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. 11 Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.’

ANTHEM “Praise God for Every Gift”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 13:1-3

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

 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?: Charity”

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 #610 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING (*Please be seated*)

So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life— and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Let us pray...

Generous God, we marvel at your lavish gifts to us: life and breath, food and shelter, opportunities for work and play, and, most especially, hope and peace in Christ. We now pledge ourselves to mirror and reflect the glory of your self-giving love, to continue in the pattern of generosity we see perfectly revealed in Christ, through whom we pray. 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 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” FFPC 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

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 #321BH #442 “The Church’s One Foundation”

CHARGE

To Jesus Christ, who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen

BENEDICTION “Peace” FFPC Chancel Choir and FFPC Bell Choir

POSTLUDE

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