



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.

1st Sunday in Lent
March 9th, 2025 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT “Bless the Lord”

CALL TO WORSHIP From Psalm 32 *(Please rise if you are able)*

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

While we keep silent, our bodies waste away
through our groaning all day long.

**Then we acknowledged our sin to you,
and do not hide our iniquity;**

When we say, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,”
and you forgive the guilt of our sin.

**Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;**

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

**You are a hiding place for us;
you preserve us from trouble;**
you surround us with glad cries of deliverance.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy and awe-inspiring God, we come into this time of worship today seeking you, asking for your continued guidance as we journey through this season of Lent together.

Draw us close to you this day and always. Grant us the grace to accept our shortcomings, and may we lean not into the temptations of this world but focus our attentions on you, and you alone. For we pray through Jesus Christ, who came to serve and to save. Amen.

HYMN PH #618 “O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

God is not content to simply return or restore us to who we once were but calls us to growth and new life. In faith and in humility let us confess the sin that entraps us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

We pray “lead us not into temptation” but we find ourselves caught in the web of our sinful ways. We protect ourselves with a thin veneer of faith that keeps us comfortable. We resist vulnerability shielding our hearts from the brokenness of others. We mock those of differing opinions believing we alone know the truth.

In your mercy Lord, forgive us and strengthen us to hear your true word and live into your commandment to love one another. Guide us to see you clearly and to reflect your word in the world. We ask this in the name of our Savior, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE “O Lord Hear My Prayer”

DECLARATION OF PARDON

We do not make ourselves righteous. Our righteousness comes through faith in Christ. As we confess our shortcomings, God does not turn away from us but draws us near. Hear the Good News of the Gospel, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Illuminate the shadows of our hearts and cast out the darkness of our sinful world. Warm our hearts with the light of your word and awake our minds to your truth through these scriptures. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

“When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, **2** you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. **3** You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’ **4** When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, **5** you shall make this response before the LORD your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. **6** When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, **7** we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. **8** The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; **9** and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. **10** So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. **11** Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

ANTHEM “Da Pacem”**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Luke 4: 1-13

4 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, **2** where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. **3** The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” **4** Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ” **5** Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. **6** And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. **7** If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” **8** Jesus answered him, “It is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

9 Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, **10** for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,
to protect you,’

11 and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

12 Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” **13** When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

SERMON

Temptation to an Easy Faith

Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Should living out our faith be ‘easy’?

Has there been or is there now something that makes living out your faith hard?

HYMN PH #166

“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING *(Please be seated)*

Because of the Lord’s graciousness toward us, we now take time to return our gifts to the Lord in the form of our tithes, time, gifts, and offerings. Let us give generously. Let us pray...

Lord, in your goodness and mercy, grant that these gifts would further your Kingdom and proclaim your Gospel in our neighborhoods and communities. May these offerings bear witness to your love, grace, mercy, and compassion for all the world. 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 #547 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

CHARGE

Let the scales of our eyes fall away.
Let us look honestly upon ourselves,
And honestly upon God.
And Walk in the Light of the Gospel.

BENEDICTION "Stay With Us"

POSTLUDE

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