



## 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 in Lent

March 16th, 2025 10:00 a.m.

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### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

#### INTROIT

**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.

**<sup>6</sup>Therefore let all who are faithful  
offer prayer to you;**

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

**<sup>7</sup>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 #35 BH #482** “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

### **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.**

### **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** Genesis 15:1-12; 17-18

**15** After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” **2** But Abram said,

“O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” **3** And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” **4** But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” **5** He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” **6** And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

**7** Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” **8** But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” **9** He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” **10** He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. **11** And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

**12** As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

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**17** When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. **18** On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates,

## **ANTHEM**

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 13:31-35**

#### The Lament over Jerusalem

**31** At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” **32** He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. **33** Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’” **34** Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen

gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! **35** See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

## **SERMON**

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

## **A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

**HYMN PH #194 BH #312** “When Jesus Wept”

### **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 #260 BH #144** “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

## **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**

## **POSTLUDE**

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