



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 in Lent Communion
April 6th, 2025 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT “Let All Who Are Thirsty Come”

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

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**² Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ While we keep silent, our bodies waste away
through our groaning all day long.

**⁵ 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.

**⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;**

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

**⁷ 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 #630 BH #306 “Fairest Lord Jesus”

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: Isaiah 43:16-21

16 Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
17 who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
 they lie down; they cannot rise;
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
18 Do not remember the former things
 or consider the things of old.
19 I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
20 The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches,
 for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
 to give drink to my chosen people,
21 the people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.

ANTHEM “May the Mind of Christ My Savior”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 12: 1-8

12 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. **2** There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. **3** Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’s feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. **4** But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, **5** “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” **6** (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) **7** Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. **8** You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

SERMON The Temptation to Mock Faithfulness Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you ever looked down on someone who was adoring Jesus in a way strange to you?

Have you ever looked at someone in our church and thought to yourself, they should dress a certain way or act a certain way before they can *really* be a part of our congregation?

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (see insert)

Musical Response PH #486

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise” verses 1&4

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.

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

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

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 “Oh 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!**

COMMUNION**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING****WORDS OF INSTITUTION****SHARING THE FEAST****COMMUNION PRAYER:**

God of all times and places, in Jesus Christ, lifted up on the cross, you opened for us the path to eternal life. Grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit, may joyfully serve you in newness of life and faithfully walk in your holy ways, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD**TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN****HYMN #463 BH #361** "How Firm a Foundation"**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**

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