



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 of Easter

April 27th, 2025 10:00 a.m.

1

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE For the Beauty of the Earth

Harp, Julie Hussar

WELCOME

1 Peter 1:3 By God's great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

INTROIT PH #626 "As the Deer" (The Congregation is invited to sing)

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 118

14 The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

15 There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

16 the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

**19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.**

20 This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

**21 I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

**23 This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

24 This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**29 O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.**

OPENING PRAYER

Risen Christ, whose absence leaves us paralyzed but whose presence is overwhelming: Breathe on us with your abundant life, that where we cannot see we may have courage to believe that we may be raised with you. Amen.

HYMN PH #209 BH #76 “My Song is Love Unknown”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Let us follow the Christ, who lived to show what life is like, who died to show that sin is death, who rose to raise us up to life eternal. Let us follow other Christ, even when, and especially when he leads us to places of confession. Let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Almighty God, you have raised Jesus from the grave and crowned him Lord of all. We confess that we have not bowed before him or acknowledged his rule in our lives. We have gone along with the way of the world and failed to give him glory. Forgive us and raise us from sin, that we may be your faithful people, obeying the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ, who rules the world and is head of the church, his body. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON—1 Peter 1:18-21, NRSV

You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, we do not always find it easy to recognize your coming to us. Come, reveal yourself to us. Meet us in the breaking of the bread. Set our heavy hearts on fire with love for you, and send us on our way rejoicing. For your name's sake, Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Kings 7:1-16

1 But Elisha said, “Hear the word of the LORD: Thus says the LORD: Tomorrow about this time a measure of choice meal shall be sold for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.” **2** Then the captain on whose hand the

king leaned said to the man of God, “Even if the LORD were to make windows in the sky, could such a thing happen?” But he said, “You shall see it with your own eyes, but you shall not eat from it.”

3 Now there were four men with a defiling skin disease outside the city gate who said to one another, “Why should we sit here until we die? **4** If we say, ‘Let us enter the city,’ the famine is in the city, and we shall die there, but if we sit here, we shall also die. Therefore, let us desert to the Aramean camp; if they spare our lives, we shall live, and if they kill us, we shall but die.” **5** So they arose at twilight to go to the Aramean camp, but when they came to the edge of the Aramean camp there was no one there at all. **6** For the Lord had caused the Aramean army to hear the sound of chariots and of horses, the sound of a great army, so that they said to one another, “The king of Israel has hired the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Egypt to fight against us.” **7** So they fled away in the twilight and abandoned their tents, their horses, and their donkeys, leaving the camp just as it was, and fled for their lives. **8** When these diseased men had come to the edge of the camp, they went into a tent, ate and drank, carried off silver, gold, and clothing, and went and hid them. Then they came back, entered another tent, carried off things from it and went and hid them.

9 Then they said to one another, “What we are doing is wrong. This is a day of good news; if we are silent and wait until the morning light, we will be found guilty; therefore let us go and tell the king’s household.” **10** So they came and called to the gatekeepers of the city and told them, “We went to the Aramean camp, but there was no one to be seen or heard there, nothing but the horses tied, the donkeys tied, and the tents as they were.” **11** Then the gatekeepers called out and proclaimed it to the king’s household. **12** The king got up in the night and said to his servants, “I will tell you what the Arameans have prepared against us. They know that we are starving, so they left the camp to hide themselves in the open country, thinking, ‘When they come out of the city, we shall take them alive and get into the city.’ ” **13** One of his servants said, “Let some men take five of the remaining horses, since those left here will suffer the fate of the whole multitude of Israel that have perished already;^[a] let us send and find out.” **14** So they took two mounted men, and the king sent them after the Aramean army, saying, “Go and find out.” **15** So they went after them as far as the Jordan; the whole way was littered with garments and equipment that the Arameans had thrown away in their haste. So the messengers returned and told the king.

16 Then the people went out and plundered the camp of the Arameans. So a measure of choice meal was sold for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

ANTHEM Let There be Peace on Earth

Harp, Julie Hussar

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 3:11-26

Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. **12** When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "Fellow Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? **13** The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. **14** But you rejected the holy and righteous one and asked to have a murderer given to you, **15** and you killed the author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. **16** And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

17 "And now, brothers and sisters, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. **18** In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. **19** Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, **20** so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, **21** who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets. **22** Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me. You must listen to whatever he tells you. **23** And it will be that everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be utterly rooted out of the people.' **24** And all the prophets, as many as have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, also predicted these days. **25** You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant that God gave to your ancestors, saying to Abraham, 'And in your descendants all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' **26** When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you, to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

SERMON

The Gospel at Solomon's Portico

Pastor Lindsey Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Was the Gospel story shared today good news to you?
In what specific way is Jesus good news for you today?

HYMN Let There be Peace on Earth

[Lyrics: Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator,
Family are we.
Let us walk with each other
Perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me;
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment,
And live each moment
In peace eternally!

Let there be peace on earth
and let it begin with me.]

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Anything we give, all that we offer, are pale comparisons of what has been given to us by God, in Jesus. Yet, our gifts are still respected, treasured and used to God's glory and furthering the Kingdom. So let us give as generously as we are called and rejoice that God is moving amongst us.

Let us pray...

Good Shepherd, you spread a table before us. We offer you our gifts, signs of your gracious love and tokens of our grateful hearts. Nourish us at the feast of the Lamb, that we may proclaim to all the world your triumphant love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 What Wondrous Love is This
Harp, Julie Hussar

Arr. Daniel Burton

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 #233 BH #118 "The Day of Resurrection!"

CHARGE

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION PH# 630 BH #306

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

(The Congregation is invited to sing)

POSTLUDE

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