



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.

4th Sunday of Easter
May 11th, 2025 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, says the Lord: I know my own and my own know me.

INTROIT “Lord I Want To Be A Christian”

CALL TO WORSHIP

1 When Israel went out from Egypt,
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

**2 Judah became God’s sanctuary,
Israel his dominion.**

3 The sea looked and fled;
Jordan turned back.

**4 The mountains skipped like rams,
the hills like lambs.**

5 Why is it, O sea, that you flee?
O Jordan, that you turn back?

**6 O mountains, that you skip like rams?
O hills, like lambs?**

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

**8 who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a spring of water.**

OPENING PRAYER

Jesus, Good Shepherd of the sheep, by whom the lost are sought and guided into the fold: Feed us and we shall be satisfied, heal us and we shall be whole, and lead us that we may be with you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN PH #1 BH #580 “Holy, Holy, Holy”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

We confess together as a community of faith because we acknowledge the reality of sin in the church, the world, and our personal lives, and so we ask God for forgiveness and help in amending our lives. And the proof of God’s amazing love is this: while we were sinners Christ died for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence, assured of a forgiveness already given through Christ.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Loving God, you have called us to become one family, a spiritual house where there is room for all people. Yet, we realize that we have not made our own homes the dwelling place for your love that we would like. Too often, we act like individuals who happen to share the same building, rather than family members who care for one another. Help us to renew our commitments to the growth and development of those who share our homes with us. Help us to communicate openly with one another and to show our love in the homes where we live, and then share that love with all your children, wherever they may be. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Hear the good news! Jesus invites us to stand, to feel our own strength, to understand our own power, to sense the changes that love is accomplishing within us and among us. The Holy Spirit has come to teach us all that we need in order to be faithful. We are loving servants of

God, who claims us and sends us on a journey of peace. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear what you are saying to us today. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 23

- 1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
- 3 He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

ANTHEM "Then Sing My Soul"

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 10:34-43

34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every people anyone who fears him and practices

righteousness is acceptable to him. **36** You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. **37** That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: **38** how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39** We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, **40** but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, **41** not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42** He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. **43** All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

SERMON God Shows No Partiality Elder Mike Vanderlip

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

How does Peter’s proclamation challenge us believers to see things differently?

Have you answered God’s call to Spread the Gospel to others?

HYMN PH #839 BH #341 “Blessed Assurance”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

As recipients of abundant life in Christ, we now offer our gifts to God.
Let us pray...

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and

redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us— 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

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 - [read the prayer requests]

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, your unworthy servants, give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

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 #649 BH #280 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

CHARGE

We have joined with Christians around the world this day to worship God: in houses, under shade trees and thatched roofs, under bridges and in parks and parking lots. God's house has many rooms, and it is still not full.

Let us go now into the world, ready to find God in the most unlikely places. Go now with confidence that there is a room – a place of love – reserved especially for you.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, this week and always.
Amen.

BENEDICTION “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

POSTLUDE

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