



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.

7th Sunday of Easter Communion Sunday
June 1st, 2025 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Acts 1:11 Why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alleluia!

INTROIT “This Is The Day That The Lord Has Made”

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 97

1 The LORD reigns. Let the earth be happy. Let the many coastlands rejoice.

**2 Dark clouds surround him;
equity and justice are the foundation of his throne.**

3 Fire goes before him; on every side it burns up his enemies.

**4 His lightning bolts light up the world;
the earth sees and trembles.**

5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
before the Lord of the whole earth.

**6 The sky declares his justice,
and all the nations see his splendor.**

7 All who worship idols are ashamed,
those who boast about worthless idols.

All the gods bow down before him.

8 Zion hears and rejoices,
the towns of Judah are happy,
because of your judgments, O LORD.

**9 For you, O LORD, are the Most High over the whole earth;
you are elevated high above all gods.**

10 You who love the LORD, hate evil!
He protects the lives of his faithful followers;

he delivers them from the power of the wicked.

**11 The godly bask in the light;
the morally upright experience joy.**

12 You godly ones, rejoice in the LORD.

Give thanks to his holy name.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord. Keep the church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace; bring all creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN PH #81 BH #446 “Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken”

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God our helper, show us your holy ways and teach us your paths. By your Holy Spirit open our minds that we may be led in your truth and taught your will. Then may we praise you by listening to your Word and by obeying it. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Kings 5:1-14

1 Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy.

2 Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife.

3 She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

4 So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said.

5 And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments.

6 He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter

reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy."

7 When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

8 But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel."

9 So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house.

10 Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean."

11 But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy!"

12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage.

13 But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

14 So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

ANTHEM "Da Pacem"

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 22:6-21

6 "While I was on my way and approaching Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me.

7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

8 I answered, "Who are you, Lord?" Then he said to me, "I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting."

9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

10 I asked, "What am I to do, Lord?" The Lord said to me, "Get up and go to Damascus; there you will be told everything that has been assigned to you to do."

11 Since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, those who were with me took my hand and led me to Damascus.

12 "A certain Ananias, who was a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews living there,

13 came to me; and standing beside me, he said, "Brother Saul, regain your sight!" In that very hour I regained my sight and saw him.

14 Then he said, "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice;

15 for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard.

16 And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name."

17 "After I had returned to Jerusalem and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance

18 and saw Jesus saying to me, "Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me."

19 And I said, "Lord, they themselves know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you.

20 And while the blood of your witness Stephen was shed, I myself was standing by, approving and keeping the coats of those who killed him."

21 Then he said to me, "Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles." "

ANTHEM "10,000 Reasons"

SERMON Our Damascus Roads

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you changed spiritually at any time?

Have you ever felt you knew what God was saying to you? Share your stories

OFFERING —based on 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, NRSV

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us in Christ, we have the opportunity to share out of our abundance.

Let us pray...

Gracious God, we thank you for gifts that belong not to us alone, but to all our sisters and brothers, since they too are created in your image. Let their need become our need; let their hunger become our hunger; and grant to us also a portion of their pain, so that in sharing ourselves, we discover the Christ who walks with our brothers and sisters. 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 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Bell Choir

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

Congregation of Jesus Christ, the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him and trust in him alone for their salvation. All who are truly sorry for their sins, who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord are now invited to come with gladness to the table of the Lord.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**RECOGNITION OF CHOIR MEMBERS**

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:

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law. Together let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

God of birth, God of joy, God of life, we come to you as a people hungry for good news. We have been so dead to miracles that we have missed the world's rebirth. We have preoccupied ourselves with pleasures and have overlooked the joy you offer us. We have been so concerned with making a living that we have missed the life you set among us. Forgive us, gracious God. Open our eyes and our hearts to receive your gift; open our lips and hands to share it with all humanity in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON: —Romans 5:1-2, NRSV

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE FEAST

O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.

—Psalm 34:8, NRSV

COMMUNION PRAYER:

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his body and blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD**TABLETALK WITH GOD'S CHILDREN**

HYMN PH #525 BH #513 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

CHARGE —Jude 24-25, NIV

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power, and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen!

BENEDICTION “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

POSTLUDE

May the Peace of Christ be with you...

...And also with you!