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 after Pentecost
July 13th, 2025 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 25

1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.
2 O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
4 Make me to know your ways, O LORD;
teach me your paths.
5 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
6 Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
8 Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
9 He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.
10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, you have called us to be members of one body. Join us with those who in all times and places have praised your name, that, with one heart and mind, we may show the unity of your church, and bring honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN PH #41 BH #476 "O Worship the King; All Glorious Above"

CALL TO CONFESSION
When we come into the holy presence of God, our own humanity is laid bare. When we stand in the living presence of truth, our own falsehood is revealed. People of God, let us acknowledge who we are and ask our ever-present God to forgive us. Let us pray together…

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)
Lord, we have sinned, without considering how much you love us. You see our sins more clearly than we can ourselves. Lord, you know when we are indifferent to your Word, the Bible; how often we forget to pray; the times we come unwillingly to worship; and yet we turn to you when we are in trouble. Lord, you know when we are untruthful and when we think evil of others. You see our anger and unfairness to our friends. You know how hard it is for us to forgive. Forgive us and make us clean, so that we can obey your call to take up your cross and follow you. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON —Isaiah 53:4-6, NRSV
Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
Shine within our hearts, loving Lord, with the true light of your divine knowledge, and open the eyes of our minds, that we may comprehend the message of your Word, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 43:10-13
10 You are my witnesses, says the LORD,
and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.
Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.
11 I, I am the LORD,
and besides me there is no savior.
12 I am the one who declared and saved and proclaimed,
not some strange god among you;

you are my witnesses, says the LORD, and I am God.
13 Indeed, since that day I am he;
there is no one who can deliver from my hand;
I work, and who can hinder it?

ANTHEM "I Am Your Child" Presb 4: George Hamlin, Brian Lewis, Shoran Goeman, and Nancy Casteel

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Colossians 1:15-20
15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, **16** for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 1:1-13
1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being **4** in him was life,[a] and the life was the light of all people. **5** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. **7** He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. **8** He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. **9** The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.[b]

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own,[c] and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

SERMON The Nicene Creed: Back to the Beginning Pastor Lindsey Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

CONFESSING OUR FAITH The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN PH #666 BH #474 "O Splendor of God's Glory Bright"

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

(If you would like a written prayer request included in our prayers today, please indicate that and an usher will collect them)

The willingness to give is a sign of life. The fruit tree gives of its fruit, and we know it is alive. When it no longer gives, we know real life has gone out of it. The heart that hoards the blessings of God is no longer alive with spiritual power. To give is to live. Let us pray…

Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our care. As we contribute to the needs of your people, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

PRESENTATION OF DEACONS SCHOLARSHIP

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 #611 BH #464 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

CHARGE—Matthew 28:19-20, NRSV
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

BENEDICTION "Fruit We Bear"

Let Us Agree, That We Will Be
Signs Of The Life To Come
And May We Believe, And Freely Receive
All That God Has Done

May The Fruit We Bear Be Christ
May The Harvest Be Ripe
Oh The Fruit Won't Fall So Far From The Tree
Abide In You, Abide In Me
And The Father Is Glorified
And The Fruit We Bear Is Christ

As We Live, May We Forgive
Gratefully Each Day
And For Peace, For Love To Increase
Holy Spirit, We Pray

May The Fruit We Bear Be Christ
May The Harvest Be Ripe
Oh The Fruit Won't Fall So Far From The Tree
Abide In You, Abide In Me
And The Father Is Glorified
And The Fruit We Bear Is Christ

POSTLUDE

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