



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.

10th Sunday after Pentecost
August 17th, 2025 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 80

1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

**Stir up your might,
and come to save us!**

8 You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.

9 You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.

10 The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;

11 it sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.

**12 Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

**13 The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that moves in the field feed on it.**

**14 Turn again, O God of hosts;
look down from heaven and see;**

have regard for this vine,

15 the stock that your right hand planted.

16 It has been burned with fire; it has been cut down;
may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.

18 Then we will never turn back from you;

**give us life, and we will call on your name.
19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

OPENING PRAYER

Great and gracious God, find us in this moment and center our hearts so that we might receive the healing power of Your love in our lives. Unbind our wounds so that the healing breath of Your Spirit might touch them. Open our hearts, our ears, our arms so that we might be one in community, in hope and in love. Amen.

HYMN PH #353 BH #379 “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

CALL TO CONFESSION - Based on 1 John 1:8-9, NRSV

God’s Word assures us: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Holy God, whose name is Love, this day we enter together into a sanctuary of the heart. We come together as a separate unconnected people in search of healing and wholeness. We gather quietly, looking for something resembling hope in a world filled with pain and sorrow. But even as we gather, God, our feet are unsure of the path. We slip, often unknowing, into despair and anger, lending our energies and our hearts to destruction instead of building, pain instead of healing. Forgive us, Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us for slipping and falling; for failing to recognize the connections we have between us as Your children. Forgive us for being unable to seize the joy we have in being Your community, and empower us to begin anew. Help us, Creating Love, to let go of our fears and our inadequacies in order to embrace the power of Your way in the universe; the love of Your child, Jesus. We ask this in His name, Amen.

ACCLAMATION OF PARDON **Nothing to fear**

In the depths of your sorrow, I wept beside you.

When you walked through the shadow, I drew you near.

Yesterday, today, tomorrow, always the same,

I am the Lord, I am the Lord

**And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear,
there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear, for I am with you always.**

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and the depths of the rivers, shall not overwhelm.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned:

I am the Lord, I am the Lord.

**And there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear,
there is nothing to fear, nothing to fear, for I am with you always.**

What can separate you from My perfect love?

What can separate you from My perfect love?

What can separate you from My perfect love?

Do not fear. Do not fear. Do not fear.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:

Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 23:23-29

23 Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? **24** Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. **25** I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" **26** How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? **27** They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. **28** Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. **29** Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Phillipians 1:14-26

14 and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

15 Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry but others from goodwill. **16** These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; **17** the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. **18** What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, **19** for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my salvation. **20** It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way but that by my speaking with all boldness Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. **22** If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. **23** I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to

depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, **24** but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. **25** Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, **26** so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

SERMON Philippians: Preaching from Goodwill

Pastor Robbie Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Can you serve another and yet have selfish motives?

How does that feel for the person being served?

Have you ever served someone out of selfish or false motives? Why?

HYMN PH #629 BH #310 “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Let us give as we are called to give. Let us serve as we are called to serve. Let us love as we are called to love.

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

God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Will the Ushers Please come forward.

OFFERTORY “The Power of the Cross”

Jonathan Wenzel

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 #69 BH #525 "I the Lord of Sea and Sky"

CHARGE—from Ephesians 4:1-6, NRSV

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

BENEDICTION Instrument of Peace

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is darkness, let me sow light.
For in the giving, we shall re-ceive,
and in the dying, we're given life.**

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

**Where there is sorrow, let me sow hope.
Where there is doubt, let me sow faith.
Where there is inju-ry, your pardon give,
Your conso-la-tion to those in pain.**

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

**Lord, make me an instrument of peace,
an instrument of peace.**

A - men, a - men.

POSTLUDE

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

Flowers on the Communion Table Remembering Joe Israel on his 100th birthday,
given by Shirley Israel