



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.

11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 24th, 2025 10:00 a.m.

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GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 71

1 In you, O LORD, we take refuge;
let us never be put to shame.

**2 In your righteousness deliver us and rescue us;
incline your ear to us and save us.**

3 Be to us a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save us,
for you are our rock and our fortress.

**4 Rescue us, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.**

**5 For you, O Lord, are our hope,
Our trust, O LORD, from our youth.**

6 From our birth we have leaned upon you,
Our protector since our mother's womb.

Our praise is continually of you.

OPENING PRAYER

Loving Spirit, may the wind of Your compassion blow 'round our hearts and the sense of Your presence calm us. As the time of our worship begins, open our hearts to the beauty of Your power in the world, and grant that with this community, each of us may find the newness of life that flows among us now. Amen.

HYMN BH #1 BH # 580 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

CALL TO CONFESSION: —1 John 1:5-7, NIV

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship

with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Friends, let us pray...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

O God of our lives, we join today in a knowing prayer. We know that You are present throughout the whole Creation, and wait only for us to open our hearts enough to embrace You and Your will for us. Yet, in our quiet moments, Holy One, we know too, that Your presence is something that we would rather not know about. For in embracing You, we are aware that there is much about us, our communities, and our institutions that You would have us change. And, God, there is nothing that frightens us more than change.

Forgive us, Loving God. Free us from the fear of change, and lead us into the adventure of new life in Your Spirit. Help us to know that change is part of Your plan for us and for all of Creation. We pray this in the hope that we might open our hearts and our church to the power of Your Spirit in the day and years that lay ahead. Give us strength. Give us courage, Give us joy. In this hope, and before Christ and Your Holy Spirit, we offer this prayer. Amen.

ACCLAMATION OF PARDON (Lyrics)

O Christ, be the center of our lives, be the place we fix our eyes, be the center of our lives.

**And You're the Center of the Universe everything was made in You, Jesus.
Breath of every living thing, everyone was made for You.**

You hold everything together, You hold everything together.

O Christ, be the center of our lives, be the place we fix our eyes, be the center of our lives.

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: Isaiah 58:9b-14

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10 if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.

12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

13 If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;

14 then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Philippians 1:27-30

27 Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel 28 and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. 29 For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, 30 since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

SERMON Philippians: A Manner Worthy of the Gospel

Pastor Lindsey Carnes

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

Have you ever had to live in ‘a manner worthy of the Gospel’?

If so, what did you learn about yourself?

What did you learn about God?

Who can you talk to about it?

HYMN PH #821 “My Life Flows On”

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

OFFERING

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

Generous God, you have given us life, a place to live in, and people to live with. Open our eyes to each other and to all our brothers and sisters, especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated. Make us humble enough to help and comfort them, so that your love and justice and peace may come to them. We make bold to consecrate ourselves and our gifts to you and to the service of others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Will the Ushers Please come forward.

OFFERTORY It is Well with My Soul/The Rivers Gonna Keep On Rolling
Donna Anderson

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 #837 “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

CHARGE—based on Colossians 3:12-14

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience, forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

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!