



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FENTON

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 21st, 2020

10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Those who are able are encouraged to stand.

PRELUDE

“My Feet are on the Rock”
FUMC and FFPC

WELCOME

The Nominating Committee is looking for Members to serve on the Session and Deacon Board in the upcoming 2021 year. Please contact Elder Jenn Wenzel or the Church Office if you have a nomination or would like to be considered for leadership.

**Announcement about Laments and Prayer Requests
Request to contribute to online services through video
Session Appointed Task Force to reopen Sanctuary.**

A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 86

- 1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
- 2 **Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God;**
- 3 be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.
- 4 **Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**
- 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
- 6 **Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.**
- 7 In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.
- 8 **There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.**
- 9 All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.
- 10 **For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.**
- 11 Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

13 For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

14 O God, the insolent rise up against me; a band of ruffians seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

16 Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant; save the child of your serving girl.

17 Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame, because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

OPENING PRAYER

God Most High, Abba, Father, we come from generations of sinners and we are sinners ourselves. You require little from us and you provide us with all. We are asked to love you, to love our neighbors, to provide for widows and orphans and to present, but not force-feed your Gospel of Salvation to all; mostly in the way we live our everyday lives. All this is in being the bearer of Your image. Yet too often, we find Your light yoke too heavy for us and your burden too onerous. Look on us with mercy, O Lord; and fill us with Your Spirit, that we may have the strength, the fortitude and the initiative to be Your people.

HYMN #475 “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created. God promises to grant us the good gift of forgiveness if we would humble ourselves and confess our sins. Let's pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Faithful Giver and Preserver of life, we thank you for your never-ending care for us. You have always met our needs, you have never let us down. Yet our confidence in you has wavered; we have tried to take care of our own selves, rather than trusting that you will watch carefully over us wherever you may lead us.

Forgive our lack of faith, and by your Spirit enable us to believe that your promises are indeed dependable, and thus to stake our lives on them, to the glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

LAMENT

You are invited to express in a journal or a piece of paper grief and frustration at the brokenness of the world. These could be personal, national, or global and do not have to be situations in which our community is directly culpable or blameworthy. We think especially of those suffering from COVID 19 and isolation; for the victims of violence and racism; for those suffering from abuse, and for those at risk financially due to economic restrictions...

(A time for silent and personal prayer...)

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy on us.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

The Holy Spirit is calling you to a deeper relationship with God. As we come to know more about God we find ourselves setting aside fruitless and sinful things for the ways of God. This is what we call sanctification and it is a work that the Holy Spirit is doing in us. As we offer our hearts to God, we find ourselves transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God in Heaven, We do not live by bread alone, food is not all that we need to sustain us. We require your word, Oh Lord, to nurture our hearts As we hear and as we do, may we learn to trust. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Amos 2:6-8; Numbers 6:24-26

⁶ This is what the Lord says: “For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not relent. They sell the innocent for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals. ⁷ They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name. ⁸ They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge. In the house of their god they drink wine taken as fines.

²⁴ ‘The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace.’”

SPECIAL MUSIC

“It is Well”
Bob Chappelle ~ Trumpet

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Romans 8:12-16, 26-27

¹² So then, brothers and sisters,[a] we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

SERMON Praying in the Spirit

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #401 “Here in this Place”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Heidelberg Catechism

Q 75. How does the holy supper remind and assure you that you share in Christ’s one sacrifice on the cross and in all his benefits?

A. In this way: Christ has commanded me and all believers to eat this broken bread and to drink this cup in remembrance of him. With this command come these promises: First, as surely as I see with my eyes the bread of the Lord broken for me and the cup shared with me, so surely his body was offered and broken for me and his blood poured out for me on the cross. Second, as surely as I receive from the hand of the one who serves, and taste with my mouth the bread and cup of the Lord, given me as sure signs of Christ’s body and blood, so surely he nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life with his crucified body and poured-out blood.

Q 76. What does it mean to eat the crucified body of Christ and to drink his poured-out blood?

A. It means to accept with a believing heart the entire suffering and death of Christ and thereby to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life. But it means more. Through the Holy Spirit, who lives both in Christ and in us, we are united more and more to Christ's blessed body. And so, although he is in heaven and we are on earth, we are flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone. And we forever live on and are governed by one Spirit, as the members of our body are by one soul.

Q 77. Where does Christ promise to nourish and refresh believers with his body and blood as surely as they eat this broken bread and drink this cup?

A. In the institution of the Lord's Supper: "The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is [broken]* for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." This promise is repeated by Paul in these words: "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ?

The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Great Shepherd of our Souls, we are weary. Anxiety and fear wear our bones to dust and we quiver to think about a second wave of COVID-19 infections; longer months of economic gloom; another young black man slain in the streets by those in authority. Our fatigue grows anger in our hearts: anger at the system that would produce injustice and at those who wish to tear it down around us. Our fatigue produces fear and we become willing to overlook injustice and prejudice to protect that which we value. Our fatigue produces deep paralysis in which we know the good that ought to be done, but lack the energy or imagination to do it.

True Vine, anger, fear and paralysis are not the fruits that your Spirit would plant in us. We are called to love and joy. We are to be people of peace and patience. We are called to act out in goodness, kindness and faithfulness. Gentleness and self-control are the things we are to exhibit, not gruffness and addictive behavior.

Your word claims that love casts out fear and so we ask that you might cast our fear out with your great love. Help us to be lovingly fearless towards those who are hurting so much that they lash out. Especially those boiling over with frustration in the face of racial injustice. Help us to be lovingly fearless toward those whose moral blindness has injured others. Help us to be lovingly fearless in such a way that we might serve others, stand up for justice and intentionally listen to the voices of the suffering, even as you hear our voices.

We pray for those who are ill:

We pray for those who are grieving:

We rejoice with those who are rejoicing:

We pray all these things in the mighty name of our Savior who taught his disciples to pray saying:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.*

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN #35 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

OFFERING

Let's close our worship by giving our gifts to the Lord!

As bearers of God's image to the world, and as a people led by the Spirit, we look to imitate you by providing for the needs of others. Not from our excess but from our best, just as you do for us. We have no needs that you are not aware of, and we know the needs of our neighbors, if not their specific identity. Lord, thank you for giving us the opportunity to help feed the hungry, to visit the sick and imprisoned and to minister to those least of us around us in the community of humans in this world.

The food collection consortium between St Jude's church, ourselves and other local churches provides us with the opportunity to be the people you want, to live up to your expectations in this small area, while we pray that we might then live up to your expectations in wider areas. Please continue to make your gifts to FFPC so that the mission of Jesus might be furthered in our community.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Father, we thank you for the many opportunities that we have to show our love of Your creation through our neighbors. Bless our gifts that they might work to bring us all, closer to Your kingdom. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Do Justly to all people so that your love of mercy is evident as you walk humbly with your God.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.