



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.

**4th Sunday after Pentecost  
June 28th, 2020 10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

\*Those who are able are encouraged to stand.

**PRELUDE**

Be Thou My Vision

Bob Chappelle ~Trumpet

**WELCOME**

**Announcement about Laments and Prayer Requests  
Request to contribute to online services through video  
Session Appointed Task Force to reopen Sanctuary  
Opportunities for Leadership: Nominating Committee  
Volunteers to help open the doors on July 12th and into the future.**

**A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 13

Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies

- 1 How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 **How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?**
- 3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
- 4 **and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed"; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.**
- 5 But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
- 6 **I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

Our father, God most high. We need you to be near to us, we cannot steward the earth as we are called to do on our own. We are unable to properly choose between right and wrong without your guidance. We seek and we need Your ways to prosper as you designed. Take us under your wing, teach us Your truth; and bless us as we live each day trying to become more like our brother Jesus, Your son and our saviour. AMEN.

**HYMN #435**      “There’s a Wideness to God’s Mercy”

## **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

We cannot come before God unless we are first honest with ourselves about who we are, about the mistakes we make, and about how well or poorly we care for others. In this spirit, let us offer our prayers to God.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**    (In Unison)

**Tender Lord, you have shown us love and acceptance far beyond anything we had ever imagined possible. Yet we have complained about our lot, as though your care for us falls short of that of a good mother or father.**

**Forgive our ingratitude, and help us by your Spirit to welcome and affirm with gladness all that you have given us, confident that you order all things, not only for your glory, but also for our good, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

## **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...)

Psalm 42:1-6, NRSV

As the deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?" These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

**Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?**

**Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON:**—Micah 7:18-20, NRSV

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in showing clemency. He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and unswerving loyalty to Abraham, as you have sworn to our ancestors from the days of old.

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God, our helper, by your Holy Spirit open our minds and lead us into your truth for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:**

Micah 4:1-10

- <sup>1</sup>In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it.
- <sup>2</sup>Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
- <sup>3</sup>He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.
- <sup>4</sup>Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.
- <sup>5</sup>All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.
- <sup>6</sup>"In that day," declares the Lord, "I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief.
- <sup>7</sup>I will make the lame my remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The Lord will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever.
- <sup>8</sup>As for you, watchtower of the flock, stronghold[a] of Daughter Zion, the former dominion will be restored to you; kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem."
- <sup>9</sup>Why do you now cry aloud— have you no king[b]? Has your ruler[c] perished, that pain seizes you like that of a woman in labor?
- <sup>10</sup>Writhe in agony, Daughter Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you must leave the city to camp in the open field. You will go to Babylon; there you will be rescued. There the Lord will redeem you out of the hand of your enemies.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Benjamin and Danqi Gittens

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Romans 8:17-25

<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

<sup>18</sup> I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup> for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup> and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**SERMON**

The Cosmic Spirit

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**HYMN #795** “Healer of our Every Ill”

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Heidelberg Catechism**

Q 78. Do the bread and wine become the real body and blood of Christ?

**A. No. Just as the water of baptism is not changed into Christ’s blood and does not itself wash away sins but is simply a divine sign and assurance<sup>1</sup> of these things, so too the holy bread of the Lord’s Supper does not become the actual body of Christ, even though it is called the body of Christ in keeping with the nature and language of sacraments.**

Q 79. Why then does Christ call the bread his body and the cup his blood, or the new covenant in his blood, and Paul use the words, a sharing in Christ's body and blood?

**A. Christ has good reason for these words. He wants to teach us that just as bread and wine nourish the temporal life, so too his crucified body and poured-out blood are the true food and drink of our souls for eternal life. But more important, he wants to assure us, by this visible sign and pledge, that we, through the Holy Spirit's work, share in his true body and blood as surely as our mouths receive these holy signs in his remembrance, and that all of his suffering and obedience are as definitely ours as if we personally had suffered and made satisfaction for our sins.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**King of Heaven, we look in wonder at all you have made. We are awestruck at all that you have done. We ascribe all power and might and righteousness to your holy name. You hold history in your hands. You perceive the future as if it was yesterday. You are active and working in our present. You are good, you have been good and we know that you will be good to us because you are faithful.**

**Yet all of this passes us by like a fluffy cloud crossing the sky on a bright Saturday afternoon. Our hearts are stone and our minds are numb, Lord. We have heard great things about you, but we cannot bear to believe it. Your love for us and the world and your faithful goodness is in stark contrast with the hatred we see around us and the betrayal and evil that is so clearly evident. We cannot breathe in the foul cloud of name calling, prejudice, self-ish politics and fear for the future.**

**Holy Spirit blow through our world, and disperse these dark clouds. Fill our lungs with the clean air of a holy perspective. Dear Jesus, give light to our darkness, so that we might see the way for our futures. Heavenly King, be so real to us now that no amount of darkness, depravity or selfishness can extinguish our hope in you.**

**It is in hope that we pray for those who are ill:**

**It is in hope that we pray for those who are grieving:**

**It is in hope that we rejoice with those who rejoice:**

**We hope in you Lord, because you have given us faith and because you have given us life. May we always be found in you.**

**And we pray all this in Jesus' name 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 #687**      “Our God, Our Help in Ages Past (verses 1-4, 6)”

### **OFFERING**

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

In the beginning, on the creation of man and woman, the Lord “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’”

We are called to be stewards of the planet, and as such, we are also responsible for each other. We bring our offerings to you, not from obligation but from thanks and in appreciation that we are able to help our neighbors, and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Let us give generously, of our time, of our talent and of our treasure that by giving we may grow into the people You want us to become.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Lord, Bless these gifts from our congregation. Bless all those who worship You here with us. May we use the gifts provided to bring Your kingdom ever closer. AMEN.

### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Jesus said: “Love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence.’ This is the most important, the first on any list. But there is a second to set alongside it:

‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’

These two commands are pegs; everything in God’s Law and the Prophets hangs from them.”

So, go forth and love as you have been loved. Knowing that the Lord of Love goes with you.

***May the Peace of Christ be with you.***