



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.

**9th Sunday after Pentecost
August 2nd, 2020 10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME

**Announcement about Laments and Prayer Requests
Request to contribute to online services through video
Face to face worship services postponed for now
Opportunities for Leadership: Nominating Committee**

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS

“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 17

- 1 Hear me, Lord, my plea is just; listen to my cry.
Hear my prayer— it does not rise from deceitful lips.
- 2 Let my vindication come from you; may your eyes see what is right.**
- 3 Though you probe my heart, though you examine me at night and test me,
you will find that I have planned no evil; my mouth has not transgressed.
- 4 Though people tried to bribe me, I have kept myself from the ways of the violent through what your lips have commanded.**
- 5 My steps have held to your paths; my feet have not stumbled.
- 6 I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.**
- 7 Show me the wonders of your great love, you who save by your right hand those who take refuge in you from their foes.
- 8 Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings**

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, all glory and honor be unto YOU. You show us your mercy and grace in countless ways each and every day. Thank you for calling us to be YOUR people and giving us the opportunity to know and worship YOUR son Jesus. Amen.

HYMN #263 All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Let us come before our God, who holds mercy in one hand and justice in the other, to confess who we are. May we be graced with clemency and may we be refined by God's justice. Let us pray:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Merciful God, you have always heard us and delivered us when we have cried out to you, and you have turned our sorrow into joy. Yet we confess that we have continued to stray from your path, turning again and again to our own way.

In your mercy, forgive our waywardness. By your Spirit, empower us to love and obey you, that in grateful response to your love we will worship you with our whole heart, and will gladly give ourselves to those in need around us, for the sake 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...)

We cry by day, we weep at night. We seek solace, but fail to find rest.
Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of your people.
Our ancestors in faith trusted in you; they trusted, and you delivered them. They were saved and were not put to shame.

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

Massennetta: Beautiful Things Song and Devotion

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Great and wonderful Yehova Elohim your word teaches us, guides us, admonishes us and shows us your love for us as YOUR people. Open our eyes, our ears and our heart as we read YOUR holy words and understand to apply these to our lives, and bring us closer to YOU.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 11:6-17

6 And the Lord said to me: Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: Hear the words of this covenant and do them. 7 For I solemnly warned your ancestors when I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, warning them persistently, even to this day, saying, Obey my voice. 8 Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone walked in the stubbornness of an evil will. So I brought upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not.

9 And the Lord said to me: Conspiracy exists among the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 10 They have turned back to the iniquities of their ancestors of old, who refused to heed my words; they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken the covenant that I made with their ancestors. 11 Therefore, thus says the Lord, assuredly I am going to bring disaster upon them that they cannot escape; though they cry out to me, I will not listen to them. 12 Then the

cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to whom they make offerings, but they will never save them in the time of their trouble. 13 For your gods have become as many as your towns, O Judah; and as many as the streets of Jerusalem are the altars to shame you have set up, altars to make offerings to Baal.

14 As for you, do not pray for these people, or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf, for I will not listen when they call to me in the time of their trouble. 15 What right has my beloved in my house, when she has done vile deeds? Can vows[a] and sacrificial flesh avert your doom? Can you then exult? 16 The Lord once called you, “A green olive tree, fair with goodly fruit”; but with the roar of a great tempest he will set fire to it, and its branches will be consumed. 17 The Lord of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced evil against you, because of the evil that the house of Israel and the house of Judah have done, provoking me to anger by making offerings to Baal.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Nobody Loves Me Like You’
Mason Skaff

Chris Tomlin

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 14:13-21

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” 16 Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” 17 They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” 18 And he said, “Bring them here to me.” 19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

SERMON “Breaking Covenant, Between Us and Others, between Us and God”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #465 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Heidelberg Catechism

Q 99. What is the aim of the third commandment?

A. That we neither blaspheme nor misuse the name of God by cursing, perjury, or unnecessary oaths, nor share in such horrible sins by being silent bystanders. In summary, we should use the holy name of God only with reverence and awe, so that we may properly confess God, pray to God, and glorify God in all our words and works.

Q 100. Is blasphemy of God's name by swearing and cursing really such serious sin that God is angry also with those who do not do all they can to help prevent and forbid it?

A. Yes, indeed. No sin is greater or provokes God's wrath more than blaspheming his name. That is why God commanded it to be punished with death.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God in Heaven, on this day that we celebrate your new covenant of grace through Jesus Christ, we pray for unity. It is Jesus' body that was broken and Jesus' blood that was spilled so that your church might be unified to glorify you and to proclaim your Gospel. We have been called to be your church, to be your people and so that you might be our God, yet too often we resemble Jesus' broken body rather than his resurrected one.

Lord, unify us as your global church. Today as we worship together online, there are countless other faithful churches across the globe that see themselves separate. Theology, culture, ethnicity and heritage all seem to be boundaries to separation rather than marks of diversity that enhance our fellowship and shape our worship.

Lord, break down the walls that separate us. Let the global church be the example to the world, to the United States, and to the State of Michigan, to the City of Fenton, as we strive to be unified in Christ. Create in us a heart that seeks to overcome barriers of race, poverty, and wealth and make us a vibrant church to proclaim your gospel to the world. May we be known by your love as we love each other.

Because we have known your love we seek to love each other by lifting each other up in prayer:

We pray for those who are ill and preparing for procedures. We pray for comfort, healing and peace.

We pray for those who are suffering the grief of loss, anxiety for the future and from mental illness. We pray that you Lord, might be their rock, a constant in the ever shifting sands of depression, grief and emotional trauma.

We join others in joy. We cannot forget that you are good and your goodness and blessings are present even in the midst of great sorrow. We rejoice with those who are joyful.

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.

COMMUNION

As we gather here today in the sight of God to join in Holy Communion, know we are only a screen width apart. The God of all creation is not beholden to the bounds of time or place. God transcends our physical distances and parts the veil between us, so that we may be together in this mystical space. Through God and the mystery of Holy Communion, we become one creation, one body, one church.

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, You took the dust of the earth and breathed your life into it, making humankind in your image. Because of this act of creation and your breath that lives in our spirits, everyone is of sacred worth. Yet, from the very beginning of time, we have sought to tarnish that image. We have not seen each other with your eyes. We have not loved each other with your heart. When we have treated your sacred creation as unworthy, we not only sever our relationship with them, but also with you. Yet, you continued to be faithful in loving us. Faithful in sending your prophets throughout the ages to call us to repentance.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When we continued to worship our personal idols instead of you, you sent Jesus to teach us love you with all we have and all we are, not just giving you a portion of our hearts, but instead inviting you to come in and completely transform us. When we continued to harm one another, out of a desire to make ourselves appear more righteous, you sent us Jesus to teach us to sit and break bread together and love our neighbors as ourselves. And when we continued to choose fear instead of faith, hatred instead of love, Jesus went to the cross to show us what love ultimately looks like, laying down your life for even those who do not love you in return. But that wasn't the end of the story. Three days later, Jesus rose from the grave to say that our hatred, our lack of love, does not have the final word. God's Kingdom will triumph.

On this day, we remember this gift of transforming love as we share together in this holy meal and tell its story anew- that on that night long ago, when Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we come together as your people, your Church, and offer our very selves into your hands in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, only made possible because of Christ's great sacrifice for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us anew this day, and on the bread and the cup. May they stand as tangible symbols for us of the love and new life you offer to us as you call us to a life of radical grace. Bind us together, Lord, not despite our differences but through them, as you weave us together as the beautiful body of Christ. May we joyfully serve beside our brothers and sisters in a way that reclaims the sacred worth and the breath of God that resides in us, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast all together at that great heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

This bread is made from many grains from many fields, yet was formed into a single loaf. Because there is one God we, though many, and in many places, are one body. Join us as we partake in the body of Christ, in remembrance of him.

[tear off a piece of bread and hold it up]

The Body of Christ given for you

[eat it]

This fruit of the vine is made by many hands, from many places, yet pours freely. Join us as we share in this blessing of the cup of the new covenant. The cup of blessing poured out for you and for all

[drink]

One: Let us return thanks to God.

All: God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. Just as you call your church to unity, Holy Spirit, May we work for the reconciliation of your church. So that we truly might be a community in which there is no separation and we enjoy equality in love. We ask this in the name of Jesus our brother and our Savior. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN #300 We are One in the Spirit

OFFERING

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.

Please check your emails this week as opportunities to volunteer for St. Jude's Outreach will be sent out. We rejoice at our partnership with St. Jude's Episcopal Church as we seek to meet the needs of our neighborhood.

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

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

May the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water.

May ancient ruins be rebuilt; May you be called the repairer of the breach.

May God bless you and keep you, May Jesus make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, May the Holy Spirit' be close to you and give you peace.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Announcements:

We are now in the planning stages for the August 10th and August 17th Food GiveAways for the Fenton School kids.

The plans will be the same as our July giveaways. We plan to pack bags on Sundays August 9th & 16th, and pass out the food on Mondays August 10th and August 17th.

From First Presbyterian we are looking for 3 volunteers on each of the Sundays 2:00 - 3:30. On Mondays we are looking for 2 volunteers from First Presbyterian 10:00 - 2:30.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the office or click the link provided below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4aaea629a6f58-stjudes1>

Thanks for your partnership in these giveaways!

Dave

August 9th & 16th are available for communion flowers

Please feel free to contact us with your prayer requests prior to worship by emailing office@ffpc.org.

Having technical issues during worship email helpdesk@ffpc.org