



## 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.

**6th Sunday after Pentecost    July 12th, 2020  
10:00 a.m.**

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

\*Those who are able are encouraged to stand.

### WELCOME

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

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS**                      My Father's World

**CALL TO WORSHIP**    Psalm 119: 105-112

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

<sup>106</sup> **I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.**

<sup>107</sup> I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

<sup>108</sup> **Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.**

<sup>109</sup> I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

<sup>110</sup> **The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.**

<sup>111</sup> Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

<sup>112</sup> **I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.**

### OPENING PRAYER

Fill our worship with grace, Lord Jesus Christ, that every thought, word and deed may be acceptable to you. Fill this time with peace, Holy God, that we might be reconciled with you and hope to reconcile with each other. Fill our spaces with your presence, O Holy Spirit, that we might know you and find rest for our souls. Amen.

**HYMN #408**                      "There's a Sweet Sweet Spirit"

### CALL TO CONFESSION:

Even if we feel good about who we are and what we have done, we need to be cautious about our holiness and humbly ask God to search us and know our hearts. We can so easily be blind to the wicked ways in us and falter in the way that leads into the way everlasting. Let us pray:

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (In Unison)

**Gracious God, you have given us inheritance of eternal life; yet we have cared more for things of this world, which pass away, than for spiritual riches, which never fade. We have worked harder at cultivating earthly treasure than in storing up heavenly treasure.**

**Forgive us for following our selfish desires rather than trusting that your way is always best. Convict us by your Spirit to invest our time and resources in ways that will bear good fruit that lasts forever. Awaken in us the joy of knowing that such investments will not only benefit us, but will glorify you and advance your righteous reign, 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...)

Why, Lord, must any child of yours be hurt? Do all our pain and sorrow somehow please you? You are a God so jealous for our praises—hear this lament as prayer that fills the earth.

**We plead: Repair the brokenness we share. Chastise no more, lest it destroy your creatures. Hear this lament as intercessory prayer, and speak your powerful Word to make us hopeful. Amen.**

## **DECLARATION OF PARDON:**—based on Romans 8:34; 2 Corinthians

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP**

‘Netta News’ with Lindsey Gibb

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Your Word, O God, is light unto our feet and a lamp to our paths. Now more than ever we need to hear from you, who know us and made us. Speak, through scripture and sermon, and make us willing to hear. Amen.

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 5:1-13

#### The Utter Corruption of God's People

Search its squares and see if you can find one person who acts justly and seeks truth—so that I may pardon Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> Although they say, “As the Lord lives,” yet they swear falsely.

<sup>3</sup> O Lord, do your eyes not look for truth? You have struck them, but they felt no anguish; you have consumed them, but they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to turn back.

<sup>4</sup> Then I said, “These are only the poor, they have no sense; for they do not know the way of the Lord, the law of their God.

<sup>5</sup> Let me go to the rich and speak to them; surely they know the way of the Lord, the law of their God.” But they all alike had broken the yoke, they had burst the bonds.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore a lion from the forest shall kill them, a wolf from the desert shall destroy them. A leopard is watching against their cities; everyone who goes out of them shall be torn in pieces—because their transgressions are many, their apostasies are great.

<sup>7</sup> How can I pardon you? Your children have forsaken me, and have sworn by those who are no gods. When I fed them to the full, they committed adultery and trooped to the houses of prostitutes.

<sup>8</sup> They were well-fed lusty stallions, each neighing for his neighbor's wife.

<sup>9</sup> Shall I not punish them for these things? says the Lord; and shall I not bring retribution on a nation such as this?

<sup>10</sup> Go up through her vine-rows and destroy, but do not make a full end; strip away her branches, for they are not the Lord's.

<sup>11</sup> For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have been utterly faithless to me, says the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> They have spoken falsely of the Lord, and have said, “He will do nothing. No evil will come upon us, and we shall not see sword or famine.”

<sup>13</sup> The prophets are nothing but wind, for the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them!

### SPECIAL MUSIC

Raise a Hallelujah/Hallelujah

Arr. Erin Bradley

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Romans 8:1-11

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit[g] is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**SERMON** “When We Refuse to Repent”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**HYMN #250** “In the Bulb There is a Flower”

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Heidelberg Catechism**

Q 88. What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

**A. Two things: the dying-away of the old self, and the rising-to-life of the new.**

Q 89. What is the dying-away of the old self?

**A. To be genuinely sorry for sin and more and more to hate and run away from it.**

Q 90. What is the rising-to-life of the new self?

**A. Wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a love and delight to live according to the will of God by doing every kind of good work.**

Q 91. What are good works?

**A. Only those which are done out of true faith, conform to God's law, and are done for God's glory; and not those based on our own opinion or human tradition.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of the Heavens, God of the Microbe, we are living sanitized lives. We wash our hands as we go in and as we go out. We bring hand sanitizer with us wherever we go. We wear masks to avoid contamination and from contaminating. We watch the numbers of infections and deaths. We look at the curve and pray it is flattening. We pray for a vaccine as we get up to wash our hands again.

We are people and a nation needing to be clean. While some suggest that the fear of viral disease is overblown, the evidence of spiritual disease is evident. Far too long we have turned blind eyes to racism, poverty, and brutality. Seeking to sanitize ourselves for our own good we fail to recognize the effect of corporate sin upon us all. Open our eyes to truth, dear Lord and open our hearts to action.

May we seek to love you with all of our heart, our passion and interests. May we love you with all of our soul and all that is in us. May we love you with all of our mind, faithfully seeking understanding and joyfully studying your word and your ways. May we love you with all our strength, proclaiming your goodness with our first breath and witnessing to your faithfulness with our last.

May we seek to love our neighbors, those connected to us geographically and in any other way in this wonderfully connected world we live in. May we seek to love them not in action alone but truly in our hearts and in response to how you love us. Through love may we unweave the fabric of racism and prejudice we so easily cling to.

May we also learn to love the stranger, those foreign and alien to us, as we love ourselves. Teach us Lord, to extend the grace and hospitality to all just as you have extended grace to us.

It is because of this merciful grace that we lift our prayers to you for those who are injured, ill and suffering....

We lift up those who are grieving and ask that you hold them in your hands....

We are grateful for the mercy of rejoicing together with those who rejoice...

And we lift our voices together and pray the prayer that you, dear Jesus, taught your disciples to pray...

## 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 #649**      “Amazing Grace”

## OFFERING

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

We are thankful for all of the faithfulness towards Pledges and the Church Budget these past few months. Thank you for your gifts. We also thank you for the gifts of time and energy that many have put forth in order to maintain the church building, prepare for face to face worship services, painting various rooms of the church, decorating and re-envisioning spaces so that they may be safe for people to gather in this time of pandemic.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous God, we marvel at your lavish gifts to us: life and breath, food and shelter, opportunities for work and play, and, most especially, hope and peace in Christ. We now pledge ourselves to mirror and reflect the glory of your self-giving love, to continue in the pattern of generosity we see perfectly revealed in Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION —1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.

And may God give you every good spiritual blessing as a gift from Christ and fill you up with the Holy Spirit, so you might know God's will and be empowered to do it.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

---

**Flowers on the Communion Table** In loving memory of Sue Clark Hard given by her brother Bobby Clark.

July 19 and 26 are available for Communion table flowers. Please contact Heidi Roberts at [roberts68@charter.net](mailto:roberts68@charter.net) for more information.