



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.

5th Sunday after Pentecost
July 5th, 2020 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

*Those who are able are encouraged to stand.

PRELUDE

Come Thou Fount

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
Volunteers to help open the doors on July 12th and into the future.

Please gather your communion elements if you have not done so.

A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #1

“Holy Holy Holy”

CALL TO CONFESSION:

All of our treasure and our accomplishments, all of our success and attractiveness, all of our morality and strength, are but dirty rags compared to God’s beauty, goodness, justice and fairness. We have no hope to enter into the presence of God except for Jesus’ work of reconciliation. It is because of Jesus Christ that our dirty rags are tossed aside and we are clothed by compassion.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Kind Shepherd, we confess that we are prone to wander from your path and fold. Our strength is not sufficient to make us walk rightly: our spirit is willing, but our flesh is weak.

Grant us the power of your Holy Spirit, to enable us to do your holy will; for apart from your empowerment, we cannot do it. Help us to live in a way that honors your holy name, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and 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...)

DECLARATION OF PARDON:

Thank God that we are clothed with the compassion of Jesus, kindness of God and the humility of the Holy Spirit. May we go, fully clothed, and drape these garments on others.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

To you, O Lord, we turn to because you have the Words of Life. Where else can we go? Tune our ears that we might hear what you have to say to us today. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 3:6-24

A Call to Repentance

⁶ The Lord said to me in the days of King Josiah: Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and played the whore there? ⁷ And I thought, “After she has done all this, she will return to me”; but she did not return, and her false sister Judah saw it. ⁸ She[a] saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce; yet her false sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. ⁹ Because she took her whoredom so lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. ¹⁰ Yet for all this her false sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but only in pretense, says the Lord.

¹¹ Then the Lord said to me: Faithless Israel has shown herself less guilty than false Judah. ¹² Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say:

Return, faithless Israel,
says the Lord.

I will not look on you in anger,
for I am merciful,
says the Lord;

I will not be angry forever.

¹³ Only acknowledge your guilt,
that you have rebelled against the Lord your God,
and scattered your favors among strangers under every green tree,
and have not obeyed my voice,
says the Lord.

¹⁴ Return, O faithless children,
says the Lord,

for I am your master;
I will take you, one from a city and two from a family,
and I will bring you to Zion.

¹⁵ I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. ¹⁶ And when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, says the Lord, they shall no longer say, “The ark of the covenant of the Lord.” It shall not come to mind, or be remembered, or missed; nor shall another one be made. ¹⁷ At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the Lord, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem, and they shall no longer

stubbornly follow their own evil will. ¹⁸ In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your ancestors for a heritage.

¹⁹ I thought
how I would set you among my children,
and give you a pleasant land,
the most beautiful heritage of all the nations.

And I thought you would call me, My Father,
and would not turn from following me.

²⁰ Instead, as a faithless wife leaves her husband,
so you have been faithless to me, O house of Israel,
says the Lord.

²¹ A voice on the bare heights[b] is heard,
the plaintive weeping of Israel's children,
because they have perverted their way,
they have forgotten the Lord their God:

²² Return, O faithless children,
I will heal your faithlessness.

“Here we come to you;
for you are the Lord our God.

²³ Truly the hills are[c] a delusion,
the orgies on the mountains.

Truly in the Lord our God
is the salvation of Israel.

²⁴ “But from our youth the shameful thing has devoured all for which our ancestors had labored, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters.

SPECIAL MUSIC

America Needs Our Prayers (Video)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 11:20-30

²⁰ Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²² But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum,

will you be exalted to heaven?
No, you will be brought down to Hades.

For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. ²⁴ But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank[b] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

SERMON “The Way Back Home is Repentance”

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN #756 “O God of Every Nation”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Heidelberg Catechism

Q 86. Since we have been delivered from our misery by grace through Christ without any merit of our own, why then should we do good works?

A. Because Christ, having redeemed us by his blood, is also restoring us by his Spirit into his image, so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us, so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ.

Q 87. Can those be saved who do not turn to God from their ungrateful and unrepentant ways?

A. By no means. Scripture tells us that no unchaste person, no idolater, adulterer, thief, no covetous person, no drunkard, slanderer, robber, or the like will inherit the kingdom of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Barukh atah YHWH, Eloheinu Melekh ha'olam,

Blessed are you YAY-hov-ah King of the Universe.

And blessed are you Mashiach Yeshua (Jesus the Christ); and blessed are you ruach ha-kodesh (Holy Spirit)

Lord Jesus, yesterday was Independence Day in the United States. Your people in exile here in the US spend a long holiday weekend celebrating the declaration of separation from England to establish a new nation where the citizens would live in safety, abundance and opportunity, as well as political and economic freedom from tyranny.

I speak of Your People in Exile in the United States because, for a follower of Jesus, whether or not you are a US Citizen, you FIRST hold citizenship in the Kingdom of Heaven. The apostle Paul, speaking in your name to Your church in Philippi said “For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. ²⁰ But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior.” [Philippians 3:18-20]

Lord God, we face the fact that while we love this country, we must and do love you more – with all our hearts, souls, minds and strength. And we must face up to the very checkered past that our nation has.

None of us in Your church today participated in the Atlantic slave trade of the 15th through the 18th centuries.

None of us rode with the cavalry to kill hundreds and thousands of native Americans, often women and children as well as warriors.

None of us participated in the forced migration of thousands from China to work as cheap and expendable labor on the railroads and mines.

LORD, we weren't there BUT we bear the burden of the consequences of the cultural damage that is done when one group of humans refuses to see the image of God in every human, regardless of age, sex, color, religion, culture, homeland or financial status. Your Scripture shows us and your Prophets proclaim that basically every nation ultimately turns into Babylon. Even the kingdoms of Israel and Judah

Adam and Eve sacrificed eternity in Your garden, the only true utopia on earth for the power to know good and bad. The serpent said that we could be like You. But we cannot be like you. Lord God, you made this clear to Job, asking “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—⁷ while the morning stars sang together and all the angels^[a] shouted for joy?”

Lord, you are the ancient of days, the all-knowing, all powerful creator. Who are humans, we that you should take notice of us?

While we wait for Your kingdom, we are reminded by Your Son Jesus that *we are to be in the world but not of the world*. We can do this as Jeremiah told the Israelites in exile:

⁴This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:⁵ “Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷ Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” Jeremiah 29-4-7

So on this independence day we pray to You for our country, that repentance would come to those who hold their brothers and sisters in bondage because of race, birth and fortune (for these are all given by You). That healing and belonging might come to all of the downtrodden, marginal and disenfranchised among us, and that You would give us the strength, courage, insight and discretion to place ourselves in the center of the solution and not permit us to be spectators to the problem.

LORD bless us that we may be a blessing to all those around us. Open our eyes that when we look upon our fellow human beings who are strangers to us that we might first see Your Image in them, and then find their character and not fear cultures and beliefs that are different from our own.

Mashiach Yeshua, have mercy on us, send your Spirit to heal and comfort those in pain and suffering....

And we shower you with thanks for your blessing on those joys that our congregation can join in on....

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

From the Confession of 1967

One: Sisters and brothers, the Lord's Supper is a celebration of our reconciliation with God and with one another, in which we joyfully eat and drink together at the table of our Savior.

All: Jesus Christ gave the church this remembrance of his dying for sinners so that by participation in it we have communion with him and with all who shall be gathered in him.

One: Then as our Savior Christ has taught us, let us share bread and cup in remembrance of his death and resurrection,

All: In remembrance of our new life in him.

One: Holy God, we praise you for your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whose death and resurrection, we are reconciled to you,

All: And have been given a ministry of reconciliation.

One: This, your mercy, was proclaimed by the prophets and apostles

All: and shown forth to us in Jesus Christ.

One: Born of Mary,

All: Christ shares our life.

One: Eating with sinners and outcasts,

All: Christ welcomes us.

One: Guiding his children,

All: Christ leads us.

One: Visiting the sick,

All: Christ heals us.

One: Dying on the cross,

All: Christ saves us.

One: Risen from the dead,

All: Christ gives new life

One: Living with you, O God,

All: Christ prays for us.

One: With thanksgiving we take this bread and cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord.

All: Receive our sacrifice of praise.

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord.

All: Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast.

One: Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

All: We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving spirit, 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. We ask this in the name of Jesus our brother and our Savior. Amen.

BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD

HYMN #450

“Be thou my Vision”

OFFERING

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

No one gives oneself freely and willingly to God’s service unless, having tasted the Father’s love, that one is drawn in love and worships God in return. We worship through giving and serving.

We are especially thankful for the efforts of Lindsey and Madeline Gibb and David Eshelman who have provided free games, books, puzzles and crafts to families benefiting from St. Jude’s Outreach. If you would like to contribute to this with gently loved games, books and puzzles, for this next Monday, July 6th, please contact David Eshleman or drop items off at the Church Office.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us— Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION From the Confession of 1967

With an urgency born of our hope in Jesus Christ, let us apply ourselves to present tasks and strive for a better world. Let us not identify limited progress with the kingdom of God, nor let us despair in the face of disappointment and defeat. In steadfast hope, let us look beyond all partial achievement to the final triumph of God.

Now unto God, who by the power within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we could ask or think, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.