



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.

11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16th, 2020 10:00 a.m.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

DRESSING THE TABLE

WELCOME

Announcement about Laments and Prayer Requests

Request to contribute to online services through video

SUNDAY SCHOOL SINGS Onward Christian Soldiers

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 133

1-3 How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers and sisters get along!

It's like costly anointing oil flowing down head and beard,

Flowing down Aaron's beard,

flowing down the collar of his priestly robes.

It's like the dew on Mount Hermon flowing down the slopes of Zion.

Yes, that's where God commands the blessing and ordains eternal life.

OPENING PRAYER

Blessed be YOU O LORD God, supreme above all in the universe. We live to bring glory to YOUR name. As bearers of YOUR image we work hard at being willing servants in YOUR kingdom. We are not able to do by ourselves all that we should. Look kindly on us and show us mercy and compassion as we do our best, fail, get back up and try again to do YOUR will. We need YOUR strength O God, to make our way through everyday life with its challenges and temptations and to stay focused on YOUR will for us - to Love you with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength, to love our neighbor and to provide for those disenfranchised in our society. All we are is YOURS, mold us to YOUR will. We ask this in the name of your son, our savior, Jesus the Christ, Amen.

HYMN #664 Morning Has Broken

CALL TO CONFESSION:

When we come into the holy presence of God, our own humanity is laid bare.
When we stand in the living presence of truth, our own falsehood is revealed.
People of God, let us acknowledge who we are and ask our ever-present God to forgive us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Almighty God, we gratefully acknowledge that you have not dealt with us according to what we deserve, but according to your mercy. Yet we have forgotten your great mercy to us, and have taken for granted your many blessings.

By that same mercy, forgive our ingratitude, and extend again your kindness toward us. Fill us with your Spirit, so that in all our words and actions we may glorify you, fully enjoying your goodness and sharing that goodness with the world around us, to the glory and honor of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

DECLARATION OF PARDON:—from Isaiah 49:15; 66:13, NRSV

Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb?

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you, says the Lord.

Take comfort that Jesus extends us grace and calls us forgiven.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
Moses tells us: “He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.” Let us now feast on the Word and be nourished by our God. Amen

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 15:10-21

Alas, my mother, that you gave me birth, a man with whom the whole land strives and contends!

I have neither lent nor borrowed, yet everyone curses me.

The Lord said, “Surely I will deliver you for a good purpose; surely I will make your enemies plead with you in times of disaster and times of distress.

“Can a man break iron— iron from the north—or bronze?

“Your wealth and your treasures I will give as plunder, without charge, because of all your sins throughout your country. I will enslave you to your enemies in a land you do not know, for my anger will kindle a fire that will burn against you.”

Lord, you understand; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, Lord God Almighty. I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation.

18 Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.

19 Therefore this is what the Lord says: “If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them.

20 I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you,” declares the Lord.

21 “I will save you from the hands of the wicked and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 2:5-16

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

God "will repay each person according to what they have done." To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.

All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.

(Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)

This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

This is the word of the LORD.

SERMON "Why Does God Let Us Down?"

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from the Heidelberg Catechism

Q 103. What is God's will for you in the fourth commandment?

A. First, that the gospel ministry and education for it be maintained, and that, especially on the festive day of rest, I diligently attend the assembly of God's people to learn what God's Word teaches, to participate in the sacraments, to pray to God publicly, and to bring Christian offerings for the poor.

Second, that every day of my life I rest from my evil ways, let the Lord work in me through his Spirit, and so begin in this life the eternal Sabbath.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Dear God, we look around and see a world seeming to come apart. Your creation is filled with Wars, hatred, violence, famine, drought and natural disasters, not to mention a global pandemic.

We search for the evidence of YOUR presence; we need to know that YOU are there and still in control. We know this but we forget easily and quickly, forgive us for that weakness of ours. Remind us that the evidence of YOUR hand is everywhere, if we look.

Open our eyes to the many instances of helpfulness and kindness performed by our fellows, our emergency responders and our medical staff. Allow us to see the countless acts of compassion done by neighbors toward each other in this atmosphere of isolation, checking on the well being of our seniors, giving rides, buying or delivering groceries.

Cause us to realize that you rule, not by monumental acts like parting the sea, (although we are grateful when you do act on a monumental scale), but that YOU act through us, YOUR followers and YOUR children; weak and failed as we are, knowing that we bring closer, by these acts, YOUR reconciliation of our human race to you, through the Grace of Jesus.

We offer our prayer to you now:

For those who are ill and physically suffering from pain. For those who have received disheartening diagnoses and are awaiting procedures. We ask for your mercy.

For those who are burdened by anxiety and depression. For those who live in fear and are ruled by abuse. For those who are grieving we pray. Don't not forget us in our darkness Lord, bring your light into our hearts.

For those whose head is lifted up and whose heart is light. For those who dance and sing in joy. We join with them celebrating your good gifts to them. Thank you for your faithful love!

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 #762 When the Poor Ones

OFFERING

Jesus warned the religious leaders of his time “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness.”

Jesus does not condemn the tithe but looks beyond it to more important matters of the law. Today, let us give generously and sacrificially count on GOD's abundance.

Let's close our worship by making our generous and sacrificial gifts to the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you O LORD our God. You rule the heavens and the Earth and you condescend to your creation with abundant care. See LORD how we take the gifts that you place into stewardship of our congregation and use them in service to YOUR kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CHARGE AND BENECTION

And we urge you, beloved Church, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them. See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the

words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May God's love be evident to you,
May Jesus' yoke rest easy on your shoulders,
And may the Spirit fill you with the fullness of God.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

Flowers on the Communion Table In memory of Joe Israel whose 95th birthday would have been August 17th given by Shirley Israel.