



## 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.

2nd Sunday in Lent

February 28th, 2021 10:00 a.m.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### DRESSING THE TABLE

#### WELCOME

#### A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

#### CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 22

- 23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- 24 **For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.**
- 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.
- 26 **The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever!**
- 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
- 28 **For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.**
- 29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.
- 30 **Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,**
- 31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

#### OPENING PRAYER

One thing we ask of you, Sheltering God: that when we are afraid you would bring us into your heart; that when we lose our way, you would give us gentle guides;

that when we cry out to you, you would grace us with your presence. It is in your name that we pray for these things, Amen.

### **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

In the moments when no one else will look at us, God's face is turned towards us full of love and hope. God does not recoil in horror from our words or actions but, with forgiveness and grace, gathers us up as beloved children, touching us with healing power, so we might turn to face all we have hurt. Let us trust such a God as we offer our prayers...

### **ENCOUNTER**

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

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

**God of compassion, look upon us in mercy, for we have not walked in the way of Jesus, your Son. We have not laid down our lives for the Gospel, but have sought to advance and defend ourselves. Our faith in you has wavered; we have trusted more in our own strength and understanding.**

**In loving kindness, forgive us. Strengthen our faith by your Spirit, that we would be courageous enough to embrace the way of the cross. Enable us to trust that this way of life, proclaimed and lived by Jesus, displays your glory most faithfully and profits us best both now, and in ages to come.**

### **DECLARATION OF PARDON:**

The good news is that at the very moment we discover that the temptations of the world provide no true home for us, we find God sheltering us with love, with grace, with joy.

Gathered up in God's grace, we become forgiven and whole. We can lift glad songs of joy to the One who makes us new. Thanks be to God! Amen.

### **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

One thing we ask of you, Spirit of Light:  
that you hold so fast to us, we can stand firm in the Lord;  
that you stick by us, so we can wait for the Lord through the long hours of life;

that you fill us with your gifts, so we can see the goodness of the One who comes.  
Amen.

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:**

### **Deuteronomy 32:4**

**4** The Rock, his work is perfect, and all his ways are just.  
A faithful God, without deceit, just and upright is he;

### **Psalms 15:1-5**

**1** O Lord, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?  
**2** Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,  
and speak the truth from their heart;  
**3** who do not slander with their tongue,  
and do no evil to their friends,  
nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;  
**4** in whose eyes the wicked are despised,  
but who honor those who fear the Lord;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;  
**5** who do not lend money at interest,  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

### **Isaiah 58:6-8, 10**

**6** Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?  
**7** Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
**8** Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear  
guard.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Church Anniversary SlideShow

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:** Titus 3:4-8

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water[a] of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure.

I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

**SERMON**                      Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

1. Are there examples of people in our culture—past or present- who have done what is good and right, even when it was hard or costly?
2. How are we to live once we have experienced God’s salvation, understanding that good works are not the basis for our salvation?

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**    The Study Catechism PCUSA

Question 24. What difference does your faith in God's providence make when you struggle against bitterness and despair?

**When I suffer harm or adversity, my faith in God's providence upholds me against bitterness and despair. It reminds me when hope disappears that my heartache and pain are contained by a larger purpose and a higher power than I can presently discern. Even in grief, shame and loss, I can still cry out to God in lament, waiting on God to supply my needs, and to bring me healing and comfort.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray, and to offer our petitions to you in his name.

Guide us by your Holy Spirit, that our prayers for others may serve your will and show your steadfast love; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Let us pray for the church.

Keep us one in faith and service, breaking bread together, and proclaiming the good news to the world, that all may believe you are love, turn to your ways, and live in the light of your truth;

Eternal God, break down the walls of hostility that divide us.

Send peace on earth, and put down greed, pride, and anger, which turn nation against nation and race against race

You bear the pain of the world.

Look with compassion on those who are sick cheer them by your word, and bring healing as a sign of your grace;

Stand with those who sorrow that they may be sure that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, shall separate them from your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **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

## **OFFERING**

Christ has died, Christ has risen, there is nothing more that is needed for our salvation. Therefore, let us respond to God's good grace in gratitude and end our worship together by giving our gifts to the Lord.

*(Any Offerings today can be placed in the dropbox located in the Narthex)*

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Blessed are you, God of all creation;  
through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and for the service of your kingdom.  
Blessed be forever, Lord and Savior, Amen.

**HYMNS #370**      “This is My Father’s World”  
                  **#634**      “To God be the Glory”

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

May the strength of God pilot us.  
May the power of God preserve us.  
May the wisdom of God instruct us.  
May the hand of God protect us.  
May the way of God direct us.  
May the shield of God defend us.  
May the host of God guard us against the snares of evil and the temptations  
of the world.  
May Christ be with us. Christ be above us.  
Christ be in us.  
Christ be before us.  
May our salvation O Lord, be always  
ours this day and for evermore. (Amen)

**Postlude:**

**Flowers on the Communion Table** In memory of my mother, Margaret Allen,  
given by Peggy Fowler