



## 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.

**Resurrection of the Lord Sunday**  
**April 4th, 2021 10:00 a.m.**

1

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

#### DRESSING THE TABLE

Christ The Lord is Risen Today  
Dr. Rose Stevens and Rebekah Ratza  
Easter Song

Cindy Crawford, Erin Bradley, Patti Nelson, Robbie Carnes and Rebekah Ratza

#### WELCOME

#### A MOMENT FOR HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP

#### CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!  
2 Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”  
14 The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.  
15 There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:  
“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;  
16 the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.”  
17 I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.  
18 The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.  
19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.  
20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.  
21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

#### OPENING PRAYER

Seeker of the lost, hear our plea for help. Demolish the barriers that separate us. Lead us out of the dark death of sin into the living light of your presence. For we crave the peace that comes through perfect accord with you. Save us Lord and give us life. Amen.

#### SONG

Because He lives  
Dr. Rose Stevens and Rebekah Ratza

## PROCLAIMING THE WORD

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of glory,  
fill your church with the power  
that flows from Christ's resurrection,  
that, in the midst of the sinful world,  
it may signal the beginning of a renewed humanity,  
risen to new life with Christ.

May we hear your words to us in Scripture today and renew our hope in your will and way, by the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 31:1-6

“And when that happens”—God’s Decree—  
“it will be plain as the sun at high noon: I’ll be the God of every man, woman, and child in Israel and they shall be my very own people.”

\* \* \*

**2-6** This is the way God put it: “They found grace out in the desert, these people who survived the killing. Israel, out looking for a place to rest, met God out looking for them!” God told them, “I’ve never quit loving you and never will. Expect love, love, and more love! And so now, I’ll start over with you and build you up again, dear virgin Israel. You’ll resume your singing, grabbing tambourines and joining the dance. You’ll go back to your old work of planting vineyards on the Samaritan hillsides, And sit back and enjoy the fruit - oh, how you’ll enjoy those harvests! The time’s coming when watchmen will call out from the hilltops of Ephraim: ‘On your feet! Let’s go to Zion, go to meet our God!’”

### NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matt 22:37-40, 1 John 4:7-12

**37** He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ **38** This is the greatest and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

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7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

## **SERMON**

Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit: Love

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

## **A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION**

1. What examples can you give from your own life that illustrate the power of love to prove the truth of the gospel, for example, in the reconciling of enemies?
2. What is it like when you are full of love? What is it like when you aren't?

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Easter Alleluia Medley  
Bob Chappelle, Robbie Carnes and Rebekah Ratza

## **OFFERING**

God's loving gift to us is the new life in Christ. Let us strive to honor that good gift by our own generosity to the ministries of this church and the mission of God.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Dear God, receive our offering.

Guide those who use it, that it may help to bring fullness of life to those who live in need and long for our care. Nurture your church and allow us to be signs of your love and faithfulness in our community. Amen.

## **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!  
They will come from east and west, and from north and south,  
and sit at the table in the kingdom of God. This is God's dream for us that we might be God's people and God might be our God.  
According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened

and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table and as we come to this table we come into Christ's presence. Our Savior invites those who trust him to joyfully share the feast which he has prepared.

### **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

Come, O Church, to Jesus' table! The invitation is open, the table is set, the meal is ready to begin. As you come, take off that which burdens you. Drop your guilt, shame, regret and blame and let it clatter to the floor. Remove your rage, your frustration, and your pain and be clothed with the steadfast love of the Lord.

### **ENCOUNTER**

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

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

**God of Life, you reveal yourself to us in ways and in places where we least expect to find you. Amidst the decay and death and the paralysis of fear, we discover your bold and living presence among us, and begin to see just how good the story of our salvation really is. Yet we turn away from you, refusing to acknowledge your gracious presence among us. We prefer clinging to our fears to embracing your hope; forgive us for turning away from you.**

**Captivate us with the Good News of your sure salvation , through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Cause our hearts to burn within us as we walk with him, that we may declare with assurance and live in confidence that all is well, and all shall be well.**

### **DECLARATION OF PARDON:**

Hear the good news of the gospel about our life in Christ:

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. You are forgiven. Live your life rejoicing in this freedom!

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Heavenly Father, we are so thankful that you have given us, poor sinners, so great a benefit—that you have drawn us into the communion of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, whom you surrendered to death for us and whom you give to us as food and nourishment for eternal life.

Grant us now this benefit, also: that you will never allow us to forget these truths, but rather, imprint them on our hearts, that we may grow and thrive vigorously in faith - a faith committed to all good works.

Let your Holy Spirit move in power over us that we may become one in Christ. It is because of this oneness that we pray for each other and lift those who need healing, encouragement and blessing to you.

May Jesus' coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer, strong in truth and love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread. Then, at last, all peoples will be free, all divisions healed, and with your whole creation we will all sing your praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ who taught his disciples to pray saying...

## **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.*

**HYMN #245** Christ the Lord is Risen Today

## **COMMUNION**

God of hope and grief,  
God of power and strength,  
God of the widow and the orphan,  
God of the imprisoned and impoverished,  
God of the poor in spirit, the merciful, the mourning...

God who sees the proud and arrogant,  
God who does not forget those who turn away from the one in need,  
God who waits to be greeted in prison, in hunger, in hospital, on the corner,  
God who grieves the word spoken in hate and the action that excludes...

You are the one true God and it is our gift and right and duty to call upon you here.  
We praise you for your faithfulness in history.  
We praise you for your prophets who have shouted the truth.  
We praise you for your saving action in leaders, in the church, in the community  
And for what You have done sometimes in spite of them.

With all faithful people of Christ, with all your children across the world, with all the saints who have gone before us we confess our faith together...

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**                      Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

continuing...

God, with our sighs too deep for words, we come to this table

And we remember when it has been closed.

We remember when the invitation was not open.

We remember when the feast was in part, but not the whole.

With gratitude and thanksgiving, we celebrate in our spirits and our bodies that the barriers people erect cannot withstand the Holy Spirit.

With gratitude and thanksgiving, we celebrate in our spirits and our bodies that the prejudices that people hold will not withstand the Holy Spirit.

With gratitude and thanksgiving, we celebrate in our spirits and our bodies that the ignorance people profess will not withstand the Holy Spirit.

We gather here today and we remember Jesus gathered with those whom he loved.

They celebrated the first Passover, that event that marked the move of the people from slavery into freedom. As they ate and drank their celebration, their actions anticipated the second Passover- from death into life, from fear into joy, from resignation into resurrection.

Jesus took the bread, a food that they as Jews had in common with all people, gave thanks to you, O God, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body - given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup- filled with wine-  
 A drink they had in common with all people.  
 He gave thanks to you, O God, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
 "Drink from this, all of you; this is a new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins.  
 Do this in remembrance of me."

### **COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
 You have brought us thus far and we trust that you will not leave us.  
 Pour out your Holy Spirit on these gifts  
 That they may strengthen us in the faith, in the fight, and in our freedom in Christ.  
 Draw us together and bring us ever more fully into being the people you have created  
 us to be.  
 Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
 all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

### **BEARING THE WORD OUT INTO THE WORLD**

**HYMN #268**      Crown Him with Many Crowns

### **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

May the blessing of the one  
 who died for us be on you.  
 May the blessing of the one  
 who is risen, be on you.  
 May the blessing of the one  
 who invites us to the banquet feast  
 be on you.  
 The blessing of God,  
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
 creator, redeemer, and sustainer,  
 be yours this day and evermore.  
 Amen

**May the Peace of Christ be with you...**

**...And also with you!**

**Postlude:**                    **The Day of Resurrection**  
 Dr. Rose Stevens & Rebekah Ratza