

# Fair Street Reformed Church

## Morning Worship ~ September 5, 2021

*Worshipping together since 1849, Fair Street is a community striving to live into our call to love God and neighbor. We welcome you, friend and neighbor, into this space and time to worship, in hopes that you will be able to experience God's love, grace, presence and welcome in these moments.*

### **Please note:**

Entering the Zoom Worship Space PRIOR to worship: *you are welcome to say hello and check in with everyone. The Space will be open and active by 9:30am each week.*

If you join us after 10am, please enter the room quietly and mute your microphone. *As long as you can hear Pastor Kendra, you will be able to participate in worship.*

*Please note that if you are able to join us on video but not print up the liturgy, the liturgy will now be shared on the Zoom screen as we worship!*

\*For prayer requests, joys and concerns please email [pastorkendra1@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkendra1@gmail.com) by Saturday night, or you can text her on her cell phone. You will also be able to send them in the chat conversation that will be to the right of the video screen on Sunday.

\*Following worship, remain online, unmute yourself and join us for our virtual coffee hour!

\*Be sure to check the Fair Street Weekly for updates and announcements for the week!



Please let us know that you are here! Open the camera on your phone, scan this code and then click on the link that shows up

at the top of your screen. **This code will bring you to your email, in which you will be able to safely send an email to the Church Office to let us know you are here!** *Please include: your name, mailing address, phone number, and if you would like a call from the Pastor, or if you have any questions about Fair Street.* Thanks for joining us today!



**Do you have a Prayer Requests with a Joy or Concern you would like to share with the Fair Street Community?**

Open the camera on your phone, scan this code, and then click on the link that shows up at the top of your screen. **This code will bring you to your texting app in which you will be able to safely share a prayer request, joy or concern with Pastor Kendra.** Pastor Kendra will share your request later during the service. If you prefer her to not share with the congregation, please be sure to include the words: "Please do not share".



**Safely make an offering to Fair Street Church from your phone.**

Open the camera on your phone, scan this code, and then click the link that shows up at the top of your screen. **This code will bring you to our secure giving page where you can give your offering online.** Offering Plates are also at the entrance of the Sanctuary in which you are invited to place your offering as you arrive, or as you leave. Today's worship service will be posted and shared on the website by Monday afternoon.

# Morning Worship ~ September 5, 2021

## God Gathers the Church

### GATHERING AND WELCOME

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Listen! God is welcoming us to this time of worship.

Young and old, rich and poor, all are welcomed.

**This is a place where all belong.**

**This is a time when all are accountable to God.**

The Maker of all seeks our common good.

The God of Mercy calls on us to be merciful.

**We are not judges over our sisters and brothers.**

**We are called to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

Come to sing praises and put your trust in God.

Come to prepare yourself to serve in Christ's name.

**We bring all our needs to God, our hope.**

**We want to share faith and hope with others.**

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

#### CALL TO AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we confess that our good intentions have gone astray. We favor the people who are like us and honor those we deem to be important. We dishonor the poor, write off those with whom we disagree, excuse our self-serving behavior, and sow injustice on every hand. It is so much easier to give advice than to do good. We would rather point fingers at others who are unfair than to give up our own advantages. O God, we plead for your forgiveness and for a depth of faith that will make a difference in us and in our world. Amen.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

## GUIDE FOR GRATEFUL LIVING

Ephesians 4:32-5:2

And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

## GLORIA PATRI

### God's Word Is Proclaimed

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

## SCRIPTURE

James 2:1-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? <sup>2</sup> For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, <sup>3</sup> and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," <sup>4</sup> have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? <sup>5</sup> Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

<sup>8</sup> You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>9</sup> But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. <sup>11</sup> For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. <sup>12</sup> So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. <sup>13</sup> For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? <sup>17</sup> So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

<sup>24</sup> From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, <sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. <sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup> But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

<sup>31</sup> Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." <sup>35</sup> And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**SERMON**

**Rev. Kendra VanHouten**

**HYMN**

## **The Church Responds to God**

### **THE SHARING OF THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE WITH OUR GIFTS:**

While the social distancing makes it a challenge to worship in person, and serve alongside one another, ministry is still happening. We ask that you consider either mailing in your offering contribution or sending it online through our secure website: <https://fairstreetreformedchurch.org/>, and click on the [support us](#) page. Your offering supports the work and ministry of the church as we continue to seek for ways in which we can love our neighbor, with no exceptions, even from a distance.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)\***

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

Sunday, September 5, 2021