

# Fair Street Reformed Church

## Morning Worship ~ September 19, 2021

### Gathering Sunday 2.0

*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.*

\*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.

*This morning's liturgy, readings, and prayers are taken from the Worship Source Book.*

**Morning Worship ~ September 12, 2021**  
**Gathering Sunday 1.0: Communion Sunday**  
**God Gathers the Church**

**GATHERING AND WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 89:1-4, NRSV

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;  
**with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**  
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;  
**your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**  
You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to my servant David:  
'I will establish your descendants forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.'"  
**Praise the Lord!**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Kendra VanHouten

**CALL TO AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

based on Daniel 9:4-19, NRSV

O Lord, great God, all holy, Father most gracious,  
filled with mercy and steadfast love,  
we are embarrassed to come before you,  
for we have preferred the ways of this world to your ways,  
for we have rebelled against your wisdom  
and we have gotten into trouble,  
for we have rejected your fatherly guidance  
and have gotten lost altogether.  
To you belongs righteousness, O Lord,  
and to us confusion of face.  
O Lord, great God,  
all holy, filled with awe,  
Father, most gracious,  
filled with mercy and steadfast love,  
incline your ear to our troubles.  
Hear us when we pour out our sorrows before you.

**Forgive us,  
not on the ground of our own righteousness,  
but on the ground of your great mercy.  
On the ground of your great mercy  
in the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ.  
It is in his name that we pray,  
for he is our Savior and the mediator of the covenant of grace. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

### **GUIDE FOR GRATEFUL LIVING**

**Matthew 22:37-40**

**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.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”**

### **GLORIA PATRI**

## **God’s Word Is Proclaimed**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

#### **SCRIPTURE**

Daniel 3:1, 8-30

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.

<sup>8</sup>Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. <sup>9</sup>They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! <sup>10</sup>You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, <sup>11</sup>and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. <sup>12</sup>There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. <sup>14</sup>Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? <sup>15</sup>Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have

made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?"

<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. <sup>18</sup> But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up."

<sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, <sup>20</sup> and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>21</sup> So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. <sup>22</sup> Because the king's command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. <sup>23</sup> But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, "Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?" They answered the king, "True, O king." <sup>25</sup> He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." <sup>26</sup> Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. <sup>27</sup> And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. <sup>28</sup> Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. <sup>29</sup> Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." <sup>30</sup> Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

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

**SERMON**

**Rev. Kendra VanHouten**

**HYMN 84: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" Verse 1**

(You are welcome to sing quietly remaining seated with your masks on)

O God our help in ages past  
Our hope for years to come  
Our shelter from the stormy blast  
And our eternal home

CCLI Song # 2802767

## **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**