**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Resurrection of our Lord**

**April 12, 2020**



*“After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.” (Matthew 28:1-3)*

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**The mission of Saginaw First Free Methodist Church is to be faithful to God and to make known to all people everywhere God’s call to wholeness in Jesus Christ.**

**Prelude**

**Greeting/Announcements**

**Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: Day has dawned and shadows are left behind

**P: This is the day that our God has made**

L: The stone is rolled away and hope is reborn

**P: We rejoice and be glad in it**

L: Set your mind on things that are above

**P: God’s steadfast love endures forever**

L: We are raised with Christ

**P: Glory is being revealed to us on this holy day**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “The Day of Resurrection” (vv.1-3)

**The day of resurrection!**

**Earth, tell it out abroad**

**The Passover of gladness**

**The Passover of God**

**From death to life eternal**

**From this world to the sky**

**Our Christ hath brought us over**

**With hymns of victory**

**Our hearts be pure from evil**

**That we may see aright**

**The Lord in rays eternal**

**Of resurrection light**

**And listening to his accents**

**May hear, so calm and plain**

**His own “All hail!” and, hearing**

**May raise the victor strain**

**Now let the heavens be joyful!**

**Let earth the song begin!**

**Let the round world keep triumph**

**And all that is therein**

**Let all things seen and unseen**

**Their notes in gladness blend**

**For Christ the Lord is risen**

**Our joy that hath no end**

**Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Mighty God, in whom we know the power of redemption, you stand among us in the shadows of our time. As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life, uphold us with knowledge of the final morning when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son, we will share in his resurrection, redeemed and restored to the fullness of life, and forever freed to be your people. Reveal to us the power of resurrection, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Gloria Patri**

**Old Testament Scripture Lesson:** Jeremiah 31:1-6

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim, “Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Amid our Easter celebration, it is well to pause and examine how we live. How can we share the joy of new life if we partake in ways that lead to death? Pray that we live as Jesus lived…

**P: Merciful God, we have come to another Easter Sunday. We’ve cried our “Hosannas” on Palm Sunday and waived our palm branches. But teach us the ways that we have betrayed the Spirit, for wealth here on earth. Remind us of the times we have denied being your disciples, to save ourselves from earthly punishment. Forgive us of the times we have pursued oppression and greed, preferring our own ways over the ways you clearly teach. Jesus has resurrected to being abundant living to the world, help us to administer this living to each other. The grave is empty, let us live so the world knows we believe this is true. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 118

**P: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. The right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly. I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**\*Hymn of Affirmation: “**Fairest Lord Jesus” (vv.1-4)

**Fairest Lord Jesus**

**Ruler of all nature**

**O thou of God and man the Son**

**Thee will I cherish**

**Thee will I honor**

**Thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown**

**Fair are the meadows**

**Fairer still the woodlands**

**Robed in the blooming garb of spring**

**Jesus is fairer**

**Jesus is purer**

**Who makes the woeful heart to sing**

**Fair is the sunshine**

**Fairer still the moonlight**

**And all the twinkling starry host**

**Jesus shines brighter**

**Jesus shines purer**

**Than all the angels heaven can boast**

**Beautiful Savior   
Lord of all the nations   
Son of God and Son of Man   
Glory and honor   
Praise, adoration   
Now and forevermore be thine**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** Colossians 3:1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

**Special Music:** Micki Martin

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.”

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Thine Is the Glory” #264 (vv.1-3)

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away**

**Kept the folded grave-clothes, where Thy body lay**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb**

**Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom**

**Let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing**

**For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**No more we doubt Thee, Prince of Life**

**Life is naught without Thee, aid us in our strife**

**Make us more than conqu’rors, thro’ Thy deathless love**

**Bring us safely thro’ Jordan, to Thy home above**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: We come together this Holy day, giving thanks for God’s steadfast love. God has supplied us with all we need by the power of the resurrection. By the way we love and give, we show our appreciation. May your giving represent your thankfulness, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Prayer**

**Closing Hymn**: “Victory in Jesus” (vv.1-3)

**I heard an old, old story**

**How a Savior came from glory**

**How He gave His life on Calvary**

**To save a wretch like me**

**I heard about His groaning**

**Of His precious blood's atoning**

**Then I repented of my sins**

**And won the victory**

**O victory in Jesus**

**My Savior, forever**

**He sought me and bought me**

**With His redeeming blood**

**He loved me ere I knew Him**

**And all my love is due Him**

**He plunged me to victory**

**Beneath the cleansing flood**

**I heard about His healing**

**Of His cleansing pow'r revealing**

**How He made the lame to walk again**

**And caused the blind to see**

**And then I cried, “Dear Jesus,**

**Come and heal my broken spirit,”**

**And somehow Jesus came and bro't**

**To me the victory**

**O victory in Jesus**

**My Savior, forever**

**He sought me and bought me**

**With His redeeming blood**

**He loved me ere I knew Him**

**And all my love is due Him**

**He plunged me to victory**

**Beneath the cleansing flood**

**I heard about a mansion**

**He has built for me in glory**

**And I heard about the streets of gold**

**Beyond the crystal sea**

**About the angels singing**

**And the old redemption story**

**And some sweet day I'll sing up there**

**The song of victory**

**O victory in Jesus**

**My Savior, forever**

**He sought me and bought me**

**With His redeeming blood**

**He loved me ere I knew Him**

**And all my love is due Him**

**He plunged me to victory**

**Beneath the cleansing flood**

**Benediction**

L: We have seen Christ the Lord Jesus, our hope is reborn. We go out to proclaim the good news, there is promise of new life on earth as it is in heaven. Tell the world of God’s love and grace, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.