**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 21, 2022**



*“And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" (Luke 13:16)*

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**PROPER 16 (21)**

**August 21, 2022**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Bless the LORD, O my soul

**P: Who redeems your life from the Pit**

L: The LORD is merciful and gracious

**P: Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love**

L: The LORD works vindication

**P: Justice for all who are oppressed**

L: The lord satisfies you with good as long as you live

**P: So that the people’s youth is renewed like the eagle’s**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #20 (vv.1-4)

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation**

**All ye who hear; now to his temple draw near**

**Join me in glad adoration**

**Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth**

**Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth**

**Has thou not seen how thy desires all have been**

**Granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee**

**Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee**

**Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do**

**If with His love he befriend thee**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!**

**All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him**

**Let the amen sound from his people again**

**Gladly forever adore Him**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Grant, O merciful God, that your church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name. Let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, 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**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Jeremiah 1:4-10

 Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

 Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

 But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

 Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Lord, by your grace, enlighten our understanding, strengthen our will, purify our hearts, and make us holy...

**P:** **My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always, though I may seem to be lost in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 71

**P: In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me. Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth. Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” #51 (vv.1-3)

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing**

**Tune my heart to sing thy grace**

**Streams of mercy, never ceasing**

**Call for songs of loudest praise**

**Teach me some melodious sonnet**

**Sung by flaming tongues above**

**Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it**

**Mount of God’s unchanging love**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer**

**Hither by thy help I've come**

**And I hope, by thy good pleasure**

**Safely to arrive at home**

**Jesus sought me when a stranger**

**Wandering from the fold of God**

**He, to rescue me from danger**

**Interposed His precious blood**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor**

**Daily I'm constrained to be**

**Let that grace, now like a fetter**

**Bind my yielded heart to Thee**

**Let me know Thee in Thy fullness**

**Guide me by Thy mighty hand**

**Till transformed in Thine own image**

**In Thy presence I shall stand**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Hebrews 12:18-29

 You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them.

 For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”

 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

 See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.”

 This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken, that is, created things--so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

**Baptism**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 13:10-17

 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.

 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.”

 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.”

 But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?”

 When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “O, How I Love Jesus” #137 (vv.1-4)

**There is a name I love to hear**

**I love to sing its worth**

**It sounds like music in my ear**

**The sweetest name on earth**

**O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,**

**O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!**

**It tells me of a Savior's love**

**Who died to set me free**

**It tells me of his precious blood**

**The sinner's perfect plea**

**O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,**

**O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!**

**It tells me what my Father hath**

**In store for every day**

**And tho’ I tread a dark-some path**

**Yields sunshine all the way**

**O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,**

**O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!**

**It tells of one whose loving heart**

**Can feel my deepest woe**

**Who in each sorrow bears a part**

**That none can bear below**

**O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,**

**O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity. Give with thanksgiving, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host**

**Praise Father Son, and Holy Ghost**

**Amen**

**\*Prayer**

**Bolivia:** Leaders from Chile started FM work in Bolivia. The church in Santa Cruz now has about 100 members. A church plant outside Santa Cruz has about 20. The Chilean Conference continues to develop the work in Bolivia under the area director’s leadership. Medical Dr. Teresa Saravia is the new mission district leader. Juan Carlos Rodriguez and Yaneth Aguirre are relocating from Mexico to Bolivia to mentor Dr. Teresa and support the growing church.

The prayer needs for the Bolivian church include the development of healthy leaders, multiplication of committed disciples, and empowerment of transformation churches. Dr. Teresa Saravia looks for wisdom and strength as she leads the new mission district and pastors the local church. Juan Carlos and Yaneth’s relocation and missions support needs are met.

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Now Thank We All our God” #766 (vv.1-3)

**Now thank we all our God**

**With heart and hands and voices**

**Who wondrous things has done**

**In whom his world rejoices**

**Who from our mothers’ arms**

**Has blessed us on our way**

**With countless gifts of love**

**And still is ours today**

**O may this bounteous God**

**Through all our life be near us**

**With ever joyful hearts**

**And blessed peace to cheer us**

**And keep us in his grace**

**And guide us when perplexed**

**And free us from all ills**

**In this world in the next**

**All praise and thanks to God**

**The Father now be given**

**The Son and Him who reigns**

**With them in highest heaven**

**The one eternal God**

**Whom earth and heaven adore**

**For thus it was, is now**

**And shall be evermore**

**\*Benediction**

L: Blessed be the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation. Blessed be Christ who bore all our sorrows. And blessed be the Spirit that empowers us to console those who are in any affliction. Share these blessings as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.