**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 28, 2022**



*“But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." (Luke 14:13-14)*

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**PROPER 17 (22)**

**August 28, 2022**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Give thanks to the Lord, who is good

**P: Who’s love endures forever**

L: Happy are those who fear the LORD

**P: Who greatly delight in his commandments**

L: For the righteous will never be moved

**P: Their hearts are secure in the LORD**

L: The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations

**P: And plants the humble in their place**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Come Christians, Join to Sing” #115 (vv.1-3)

**Come, Christians, join to sing**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Loud praise to Christ our King**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Let all, with heart and voice**

**Before his throne rejoice**

**Praise is his gracious choice**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Come, lift your hearts on high**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Let praises fill the sky**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**He is our guide and friend**

**To us he'll condescend**

**His love shall never end**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Praise yet our Christ again**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Life shall not end the strain**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**On heaven’s blissful shore**

**His goodness we’ll adore**

**Singing forevermore**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: God of power and justice, like Jeremiah you weep over those who wander from you, turn aside to other gods, and enter into chaos and destruction. By your tears and through your mercy, teach us your ways and write them on our hearts so that we may follow faithfully the path you show us. We praise your abiding guidance, 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 2:4-13

Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the LORD: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after vanity, and became vain themselves?

They did not say, “Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?”

I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, “Where is the LORD?” Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit.

Therefore, once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit.

Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

**Prayer of Confession**

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

**P:** **Holy Spirit, inspire me to think as I ought; to speak as I ought; to keep silent when I ought; to write as I ought; to act as I ought; and to work as I ought for the good of my brothers and sisters, the fulfillment of my mission and the triumph of the kingdom of Christ. Come, enlighten my understanding in order to know your commands, strengthen my heart against the snares of the enemy; enkindle my will. I have heard your voice and I do not want to harden my heart and resist. Spirit of truth and of wisdom, Spirit of understanding and of counsel, Spirit of joy and of peace; I want what you want, because you want it, as you want it, when you want it. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 81

**P: Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob. I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it. But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. So, I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! Then I would quickly subdue their enemies, and turn my hand against their foes. I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “O For a Heart to Praise My God” #464 (vv.1-5)

**Oh, for a heart to praise my God**

**A heart from sin set free**

**A heart that always feels thy blood**

**So freely shed for me**

**A heart resigned, submissive, meek**

**My great Redeemer’s throne**

**Where only Christ is heard to speak**

**Where Jesus reigns alone**

**O for a lowly, contrite heart**

**Believing, true, and clean**

**Which neither death nor life can part**

**From Him that dwells within**

**A heart in every thought renewed**

**And filled with love divine**

**Perfect and right, and pure and good**

**A copy, Lord, of Thine**

**Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart**

**Come quickly from above**

**Write Thy new name upon my heart**

**Thy new, best name of Love**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers.

Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “I Know Who Holds Tomorrow” #612 (vv.1-3)

**I don’t know about tomorrow**

**I just live from day to day**

**I don’t borrow from its sunshine**

**For its skies may turn to gray**

**I don’t worry o’er the future**

**For I know what Jesus said**

**And today I’ll walk beside Him**

**For He knows what is ahead**

**Many things about tomorrow**

**I don’t seem to understand**

**But I know who holds tomorrow**

**And I know who holds my hand**

**Every step is getting brighter**

**As the golden stairs I climb**

**Every burden’s getting lighter**

**Every cloud is silver lined**

**There the sun is always shining**

**There no tear will dim the eye**

**At the ending of the rainbow**

**Where the mountains touch the sky**

**Many things about tomorrow**

**I don’t seem to understand**

**But I know who holds tomorrow**

**And I know who holds my hand**

**I don’t know about tomorrow**

**It may bring me poverty**

**But the one who feeds the sparrow**

**Is the one who stands by me**

**And the path that be my portion**

**May be through the flame or flood**

**But His presence goes before me**

**And I’m covered with His blood**

**Many things about tomorrow**

**I don’t seem to understand**

**But I know who holds tomorrow**

**And I know who holds my hand**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers. Say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.” Give from the contentment of your heart, 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**: “Victory in Jesus” #352 (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: The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. May the mercy of the unchanging God comfort your heart. May Christ’s righteousness be in your actions. May the Spirit keep your heart pure. Meekly go in peace to love and serve. Amen.