**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 2, 2020**



*“Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.” (Matthew 14:19-20)*

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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**

L: Come to call on God, who is eager to answer

**P: Let our eyes see all that is right and true**

L: Incline your ear to hear all God would teach

**P: We are here to receive all God’s instruction**

L: God is near to all who call and seek

**P: We want to renew our covenant with the living God**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Holy, Holy, Holy” #2 (vv.1-2,4)

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty**

**Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty**

**God in three Persons, blessed Trinity**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee**

**Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea**

**Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee**

**Which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty**

**All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea**

**Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty**

**God in three Persons, blessed Trinity**

**Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Abiding God, who comes and wrestles with each of us, remind us of our new names written in heaven this morning. In you we address issues of faith in our communities. By your spirit dwelling inside us, we trust your teachings above the false securities of this world. Reveal to us the ways we are to bring your kingdom to earth, as we pray together 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:** Genesis 32:22-31

 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.

 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, “Let me go, for the day is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I will not let you go, unless you bless me.”

 So he said to him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Jacob.”

 Then the man said, “You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.”

 Then Jacob asked him, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And there he blessed him.

 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.”

 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: We all have times of wrestling with God. We live lives that are off the mark at times. God will gift us new understandings of the kingdom. Open your eyes, ears, and mind to understand…

**P: God of justice and righteousness, whose compassion for humankind was expressed vividly in Jesus of Nazareth, we bring our sorrow and anguish that we have not followed faithfully in Christ’s footsteps. Unkindness and deceit are all around us, and we have sometimes joined in their destructive ways. We waste resources you have entrusted to us. We cause others to stumble and fall by our selfish desires. Take away our wickedness. Restore us to the life of resurrection. May we renew our covenant with you this day. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 17

**P: Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit. From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right. If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress. As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped. I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words. Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand. As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.**

**\*Hymn of Affirmation:** “Nothing but the Blood” #453 (vv.1,4)

**What can wash away my sin?**

**Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

**What can make me whole again?**

**Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

**O precious is the flow**

**That makes me white as snow**

**No other fount I know**

**Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

**This is all my hope and peace**

**Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

**This is all my righteousness**

**Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

**O precious is the flow**

**That makes me white as snow**

**No other fount I know**

**Nothing but the blood of Jesus**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** Romans 9:1-5

 I am speaking the truth in Christ--I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit. I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh.

 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

**Special Music:** Micki Martin

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 14:13-21

 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

 Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”

 They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”

 And he said, “Bring them here to me.”

 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Jesus, Lord, We Look to Thee” (vv.1-4)

**Jesus, Lord, we look to thee**

**Let us in thy name agree**

**Show thyself the Prince of Peace**

**Bid all strife forever cease**

**Make us of one heart and mind**

**Courteous, pitiful, and kind**

**Lowly meek in thought and word**

**All together like our Lord**

**Let us for each other care**

**Each the other’s burden bear**

**To thy church the pattern give**

**Show how true believers live**

**Free from anger and from pride**

**Let us thus in God abide**

**All the depths of love express**

**All the heights of holiness**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: God has created a world full of abundance for everyone. Yet many so not share in the bounty. Many hoard what they have been blessed with. Live lives so that all may have abundant life, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Prayer**

**Closing Hymn**: “Higher Ground” #467 (vv.1,3)

**I’m pressing on the upward way**

**New heights I’m gaining every day**

**Still praying as I’m onward bound**

**Lord, plant my feet on higher ground**

**Lord, lift me up and let me stand**

**By faith, on Heaven’s tableland**

**A higher plane than I have found**

**Lord, plant my feet on higher ground**

**I want to live above the world**

**Tho’ Satan’s darts at me are hurled**

**For faith has caught the joyful sound**

**The song of saints on higher ground**

**Lord, lift me up and let me stand**

**By faith, on Heaven’s tableland**

**A higher plane than I have found**

**Lord, plant my feet on higher ground**

**Benediction**

L: You have sought the blessing of God. God has given you a blessing. Humbly receive what God has for you. Humble share with the world this blessing, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.