**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**February 13, 2022**



*“He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon."*

*(Luke 6:17)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Come and be planted by the stream of living water

**P: Blessed are those who trust in the Lord**

L: Christ came to heal the afflicted

**P: So that we will be filled with every good thing**

L: Christ came to bring life to the perishing

**P: We will rejoice in the joy of our salvation**

L: Christ crucified and raised from the dead is our only hope

**P: Great and pure is our reward in heaven**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” #636 (vv.1-4)

**Jesus, lover of my soul**

**Let me to thy bosom fly**

**While the nearer waters roll**

**While the tempest still is high**

**Hide me, O my Savior, hide**

**Till the storm of life is past**

**Safe into the haven guide**

**O receive my soul at last**

**Other refuge have I none**

**Hangs my helpless soul on thee**

**Leave, ah! leave me not alone**

**Still support and comfort me**

**All my trust on thee is stayed**

**All my help from thee I bring**

**Cover my defenseless head**

**With the shadow of thy wing**

**Thou, O Christ, art all I want**

**More than all in Thee I find**

**Raise the fallen, cheer the faint**

**Heal the sick and lead the blind**

**Just and holy is Thy name**

**I am all unrighteousness**

**False and full of sin I am**

**Thou are full of truth and grace**

**Plenteous grace with Thee is found**

**Grace to cover all my sin**

**Let the healing streams abound**

**Make and keep me pure within**

**Thou of life the fountains art**

**Freely let me take of Thee**

**Spring Thou up with haven guide**

**O receive my soul at last**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you; Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we do nothing apart from you, give us the help of your grace. Help us to keep your commandments that we may please you both in will and deed. May we receive the liberty that you have made know in your son, our savior Christ Jesus, 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 17:5-10

 Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

 Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

 The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse-- who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Let us confess to the God who releases us from the bonds of disease and frees us from the power of sin. Seek streams of living water, so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified...

**P: O merciful God, grant that I may desire ardently, search prudently, recognize truly, and bring to perfect completion whatever is pleasing to you for the praise and glory of your name. Put my life in good order, my God. Grant that I may know what You require me to do. Bestow upon me the power to accomplish Your will. Grant to me, O Lord my God, that I may not falter in times of prosperity or adversity, so that I may not be exalted in the former, nor dejected in the latter. May I not rejoice in anything unless it leads me to You; may I not be saddened by anything unless it turns me from you. May I desire to please no one, nor fear to displease anyone, but You. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 1

P: **Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “There Is a Redeemer” #246 (vv.1-3)

**There is a Redeemer Jesus, God's own Son**

**Precious Lamb of God**

 **Messiah, Holy One**

**Thank You, O my Father**

**For giving us Your Son**

**And leaving Your Spirit till**

**The work on earth is done**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names**

**Precious Lamb of God, Messiah**

**O for sinners slain**

**Thank You, O my Father**

**For giving us Your Son**

**And leaving Your Spirit till**

**The work on earth is done**

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face**

**There I'll serve my King forever**

**In that holy place**

**Thank You, O my Father**

**For giving us Your Son**

**And leaving Your Spirit till**

**The work on earth is done**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

 Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson****:** Luke 6:17-26

 He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

 Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

 Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

**Sermon:** “St. Valentine”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Blessed Assurance” #442 (vv.1-3)

 **Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine**

**Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine**

**Heir of salvation, purchase of God**

**Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight**

**Visions of rapture now burst on my sight**

**Angels descending, bring from above**

**Echoes of mercy, whispers of love**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest**

**I in my Savior am happy and blest**

**Watching and waiting, looking above**

**Filled with His goodness, lost in His love**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The Sovereign God ordained us as stewards of God’s world. We are the fruits of God’s abiding love. Give your first fruits of the harvest, trusting God is eternally gracious. Share the good news, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Heaven Came Down” #371 (vv.1-3)

**O what a wonderful, wonderful day**

**Day I will never forget**

**After I'd wandered in darkness away**

**Jesus my Savior I met**

**O what a tender, compassionate friend**

**He met the need of my heart**

**Shadows dispelling, With joy I am telling**

**He made all the darkness depart**

**Heaven came down and glory filled my soul**

**When at the cross the Savior made me whole**

**My sins were washed away**

**And my night was turned to day**

**Heaven came down and glory filled my soul**

**Born of the Spirit with life from above**

**Into God's fam'ly divine**

**Justified fully thru Calvary's love**

**O what a standing is mine**

**And the transaction so quickly was made**

**When as a sinner I came,**

**Took of the offer of grace He did proffer**

**He saved me, O praise His dear name**

**Heaven came down and glory filled my soul**

**When at the cross the Savior made me whole**

**My sins were washed away**

**And my night was turned to day**

**Heaven came down and glory filled my soul**

**Now I've a hope that will surely endure**

**After the passing of time**

**I have a future in heaven for sure**

**There in those mansions sublime**

**And it's because of that wonderful day**

**When at the cross I believed**

**Riches eternal and blessings supernal**

**From His precious hand I received**

**Heaven came down and glory filled my soul**

**When at the cross the Savior made me whole**

**My sins were washed away**

**And my night was turned to day**

**Heaven came down and glory filled my soul**

**\*Benediction**

L: Receive Christ in the life of the less fortunate. Abide with Christ rooted near the streams of living water. Share Christ with those seeking corruptible treasures. Be Christ for those who seek, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.