**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

First Sunday after Christmas

January 1, 2023



*“Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt" (Matthew 2:14)*

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**First Sunday after Christmas**

**January 1, 2023**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: The Holy One called to the earth

**P: Heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds**

L: Eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem

**P: The virgin gave birth to a son**

L: God’s splendor shines as a bright star

**P: Where the Light of the world is humbly born**

L: The Light of life came in flesh, born into human pain and joy

**P: Giving us the power to be children of God**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “O Worship the King” #64 (vv.1-4)

**O worship the King all-glorious above**

**O gratefully sing His power and His love**

**Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days**

**Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise**

**O tell of His might and sing of His grace**

**Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space**

**His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form**

**And dark is His path on the wings of the storm**

**Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?**

**It breathes in the air, it shines in the light**

**It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain**

**And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail**

**In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail**

**Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end**

**Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, look upon our lives and cause all darkness and doubt to vanish beneath your gaze. Look upon our ministries and banish all barriers to effectiveness and faithfulness. Fill our life and mission with receptiveness to your Holy Spirits directive, that we may always be led into paths of fruitful ministry. May we continually be reminded of your incarnation, 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.​**

**Responsive Reading:** Isaiah 67

**P:** **I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.**

**Congregational Hymn:** “My Savior’s Love” #224 (vv.1,4-5)

**I stand amazed in the presence**

**Of Jesus, the Nazarene**

**And wonder how he could love me**

**A sinner, condemned, unclean**

**How marvelous, how wonderful**

**And my song shall ever be**

**How marvelous, how wonderful**

**Is my Savior’s love for me**

**He took my sins and my sorrows**

**He made them his very own**

**He bore the burden to Calvary**

**And suffered and died alone**

**How marvelous, how wonderful**

**And my song shall ever be**

**How marvelous, how wonderful**

**Is my Savior’s love for me**

**When with the ransomed in glory**

**His face I at last shall see**

**’Twill be my joy through the ages**

**To sing of his love for me**

**How marvelous, how wonderful**

**And my song shall ever be**

**How marvelous, how wonderful**

**Is my Savior’s love for me**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 4:1-11

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “I Sing Praises” (vv.1-2)

**I sing praises to Your Name, O Lord**

**Praises to Your Name, O Lord**

**For Your Name is great**

**And greatly to be praised**

**We give glory to Your Name, O Lord**

**Glory to Your Name, O Lord**

**For Your name is great**

**And greatly to be praised**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The royal son will rule from age to age. All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him. His name will endure forever, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne” #193 (vv.1-2,5)

**Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown**

**When Thou camest to earth for me**

**But in Bethlehem's home was there found no room**

**For Thy holy nativity**

**O come to my heart, Lord Jesus**

**There is room in my heart for Thee**

**Heaven’s arches rang when the angels sang**

**Proclaiming Thy royal degree**

**But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth**

**And in great humility**

**O come to my heart, Lord Jesus**

**There is room in my heart for Thee**

**When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing**

**At Thy coming to victory**

**Let Thy voice call me home, saying “Yet there is room**

**There is room at My side for thee”**

**My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus**

**When Thou comest and callest for me**

**\*Benediction**

L: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. May Christ’s light shine in darkest corners our world. May Christ’s light illuminate our paths. May all see the star leading to salvation in us. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.