**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**January 24, 2021**



*“Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you get to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’” (John 1:48-50)*

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**Second Sunday After The Epiphany**

**January 24, 2021**

*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**

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

L:     God is calling the people together for a purpose

**P:    We were created and named by God**

L:     You are fearfully and wonderfully made

**P:    God search our hearts and know our minds**

L:     Your bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit

**P:    We will glorify God in our body**

L:     Do not be dominated by things of this world

**P:    We will dedicate our whole lives to the Lord**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #147 (vv.1,7)

**O for a thousand tongues to sing**

**My great Redeemer's praise**

**The glories of my God and King**

**The triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God**

**Assist me to proclaim**

**To spread thro' all the earth abroad**

**The honors of Thy name**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Perfect Light of revelation, as you shone in the life of Jesus, so shine in us and through us. May we become beacons of truth and compassion, enlightening all creation with deeds of justice and mercy. Remind us to be humble in our service and gracious in witness. May we hear your voice guiding us, 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:** 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down.

The LORD called again, “Samuel”" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.”

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.

Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

Then the LORD said to Samuel, “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.”

Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.”

So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: God knows our every thought; we can hide nothing. We are seen when we sleep and when we rise. We are also known when we sin. For the times we’ve broken God’s trust, let us confess…

**P: Almighty God, who created us from dust and who knows all our thoughts, teach us to understand ourselves the way you do. Teach us to overcome the distractions that keep us from doing your will. When our ways do not line up with your will, break our habits. When we apply your name in vain, and to the wrong entity, lead us to repentance. Continue calling to us, even when we believe the voice is from another. Persist until we answer, “Here I am Lord, your servant is listening.” Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 139

**P:** **O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee” #552 (vv.1,3)

**O Master, let me walk with thee**

**In lowly paths of service free**

**Tell me thy secret, help me bear**

**The strain of toil, the fret of care**

**Teach me Thy patience still with Thee**

**In closer, dearer company**

**In work that keeps faith sweet and strong**

**In trust that triumphs over wrong**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything.

“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.”

But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 1:43-51

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”

Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.”

Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!”

Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.”

And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**\*Hymn of Response:** “Here I Am, Lord”

**I, the Lord of sea and sky**

**I have heard my people cry**

**All who dwell in dark and sin**

**My hand will save**

**I who made the stars of night**

**I will make their darkness bright**

**Who will bear my light to them?**

**Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord**

**Is it I, Lord?**

**I have heard You calling in the night**

**I will go, Lord**

**If You lead me**

**I will hold Your people in my heart**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame**

**I will tend the poor and lame**

**I will set a feast for them**

**My hand will save**

**Finest bread I will provide**

**‘Til their hearts be satisfied**

**I will give my life to them**

**Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord**

**Is it I, Lord?**

**I have heard You calling in the night**

**I will go, Lord**

**If You lead me**

**I will hold Your people in my heart**

**I will hold Your people in my heart**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:God has called us, and we have responded. When we give our lives to Jesus, we hold nothing back. We give of our time, treasures, and talents. Give to strengthen Christ’s healing presence in your and the world’s lives, 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**

**\*Hymn**: “To God Be the Glory” #36 (v.1)

**To God be the glory, great things he hath done!**

**So loved he the world that he gave us his Son**

**Who yielded his life an atonement for sin**

**And opened the life-gate that all may go in**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the earth hear his voice**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the people rejoice**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son**

**And give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**\*Benediction**

L: We are God’s messengers in this world, at this time in history. We follow the lamp to our feet and light to our path. God has created everyone, formed their inmost being. Live to restore the lives of everyone, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.