**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**January 30, 2022**



*“When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage."*

*(Luke 4:28)*

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**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: The Lord draws all nations into God’s courts

**P: God is our rock and our fortress**

L: Jesus was anointed to preach good news to the poor

**P: The Spirit of the Lord was upon him**

L: To the prisoner and the oppressed

**P: It was a year of jubilee**

L: To the sick and the blind

**P: It is a year of the Lord’s favor**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “God of Grace and God of Glory” #720 (vv.1-4)

**God of grace and God of glory**

**On Thy people pour Thy power**

**Crown Thine ancient church's story**

**Bring her bud to glorious flower**

**Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage**

**For the facing of this hour**

**For the facing of this hour**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us**

**Scorn Thy Christ, assail His ways!**

**Fears and doubts too long have bound us**

**Free our hearts to work and praise**

**Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage**

**For the living of these days**

**For the living of these days**

**Heal Thy people's warring madness**

**Bend our pride to Thy control**

**Shame our wanton, selfish gladness**

**Rich in things and poor in soul**

**Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage**

**Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal**

**Lest we miss Thy kingdom's goal**

**Set our feet on lofty places**

**Gird our lives that they may be**

**Armoured with all Christlike graces**

**In the fight to set men free**

**Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage**

**That we fail not man nor Thee**

**That we fail not man nor Thee**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O God, you spoke your word and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ. Fill all creation with that word again, so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples, we may become one living body, your incarnate presence on the earth. And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name, 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 1:4-10

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy’; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: We rely on God’s infinite goodness and mercy for the forgiveness of sin. We trust in God’s grace and guidance for everlasting life. We abide in God so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified...

**P: Spirit of wisdom, preside over all my thoughts, words and actions, from this hour until the moment of my death. Spirit of understanding, enlighten and teach me. Spirit of counsel, direct my inexperience. Spirit of fortitude, strengthen my weakness. Spirit of knowledge, instruct my ignorance. Spirit of piety, make me fervent in good works. Heavenly Spirit, make me persevere in the service of God, and enable me to act on all occasions with goodness and kindness, charity and joy, with long-suffering, mildness, and fidelity. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 71

**P: In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me. Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth. Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Take My Life and Let It Be” #455 (vv.1,2,5,6)

**Take my life and let it be**

**Consecrated, Lord, to thee**

**Take my moments and my days**

**Let them flow in endless praise**

**Let them flow in endless praise**

**Take my hands and let them move**

**At the impulse of thy love**

**Take my feet and let them be**

**Swift and beautiful for thee**

**Swift and beautiful for thee**

**Take my will and make it Thine**

**It shall be no longer mine**

**Take my heart it is Thine own**

**It shall be Thy royal throne**

**It shall be Thy royal throne**

**Take my love my Lord I pour**

**At thy feet its treasures store**

**Take my self and I will be**

**Ever only all for thee**

**Ever only all for thee**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson****:** Luke 4:21-30

Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, ‘Is not this Joseph's son?”

He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’”

And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

**Sermon:** “The Far Ends of the Earth”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Face to Face” #661 (vv.1-4)

**Face to face with Christ, my Savior**

**Face to face- what will it be**

**When with rapture I behold him**

**Jesus Christ who died for me**

**Face to face I shall behold him**

**Far beyond the starry sky**

**Face to face in all his glory**

**I shall see him by and by**

**Only faintly now I see him**

**With the darkened veil between**

**But a blessed day is coming**

**When his glory shall be seen**

**Face to face I shall behold him**

**Far beyond the starry sky**

**Face to face in all his glory**

**I shall see him by and by**

**What rejoicing in his presence**

**When are banished grief and pain**

**When the crooked ways are straightened**

**And the dark things shall be plain**

**Face to face I shall behold him**

**Far beyond the starry sky**

**Face to face in all his glory**

**I shall see him by and by**

**Face to face- oh, blissful moment**

**Face to face- to see and know**

**Face to face with my Redeemer**

**Jesus Christ who loves me so**

**Face to face I shall behold him**

**Far beyond the starry sky**

**Face to face in all his glory**

**I shall see him by and by**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Life is uncertain and the future unclear, but the word of the Lord endures forever. The mission of God continues through even though we only know in part. Abide in love, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Jesus Shall Reign” #271 (vv.1-4)

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun**

**Does its successive journeys run,**

**His kingdom stretch from shore to shore**

**Till moons shall wax and wane no more**

**To him shall endless prayer be made,**

**And praises throng to crown his head.**

**His name like sweet perfume shall rise**

**With every morning sacrifice**

**People and realms of every tongue**

**Dwell on his love with sweetest song,**

**And infant voices shall proclaim**

**Their early blessings on his name**

**Let every creature rise and bring**

**The highest honors to our King,**

**Angels descend with songs again,**

**And earth repeat the loud amen**

**\*Benediction**

L: Go into the world with joy. Tell the world Christ lives. Tell the world of God’s love. Carry God’s blessing, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.