**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 31, 2022**



*“And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’” (Luke 12:15)*

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**PROPER 13 (18)**

**July 31, 2022**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Happy are those who delight in the law of the Lord

**P: We make our boast in Christ alone**

L: Do not let the wealthy boast in their wealth

**P: Those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches**

L: Do not let the wise boast in their wisdom

**P: Do not let the mighty boast in their might**

L: Let those who boast, boast that they understand and know the Lord

**P: Who is steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Rejoice, the Lord Is King” #276 (vv.1-4)

**Rejoice, the Lord is King**

**Your Lord and King adore**

**Rejoice, give thanks and sing**

**And triumph evermore**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**Jesus, the Savior, reigns**

**The God of truth and love**

**When He had purged our stains**

**He took his seat above**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**His kingdom cannot fail**

**He rules o'er earth and heav'n**

**The keys of death and hell**

**Are to our Jesus giv’n**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**Rejoice in glorious hope**

**Our Lord, the Judge, shall come**

**And take His servants up**

**To their eternal home**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O Lord, we beseech you, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend the church, and, because it cannot continue in safety without your succor, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Shed abroad the gift of eternal life through to the ends of the earth, 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:** Hosea 11:1-11

 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them.

 I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests, and devours because of their schemes. My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all.

 How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

 They shall go after the LORD, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria; and I will return them to their homes, says the LORD.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Lord, by your grace, enlighten our understanding, strengthen our will, purify our hearts, and make us holy...

**P:** **O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man, and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Church teaches because you have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. O my God, relying on your infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon for my sins, the help of your grace, and life everlasting; through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 107

**P: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.** **Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress; he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind. For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things. Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “As the Deer”

**As the deer panteth for the water**

**So my soul longeth after Thee**

**You alone are my heart's desire**

**And I long to worship Thee**

**You alone are my strength, my shield**

**To You alone may my spirit yield**

**You alone are my heart's desire**

**And I long to worship Thee**

**I want you more than gold or silver**

**Only you can satisfy**

**You alone are the real joy giver**

**And the apple of my eye**

**You alone are my strength, my shield**

**To You alone may my spirit yield**

**You alone are my heart's desire**

**And I long to worship Thee**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Colossians 3:1-11

 So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

 Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient.

 These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things--anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

**Special Music:**  Don Gingrich

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 12:13-21

 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.”

 But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?”

 And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”

 Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’

 Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’

 But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response****:** “I’d Rather Have Jesus” #456 (vv.1-3)

**I’d rather have Jesus than silver or gold**

**I’d rather be His than have riches untold**

**I’d rather have Jesus than houses or lands**

**I'd rather be led by His nail pierced hand**

**Than to be the king of a vast domain**

**Or be held in sin’s dread sway**

**I’d rather have Jesus than anything**

**This world affords today**

**I’d rather have Jesus than men’s applause**

**I’d rather be faithful to His dear cause**

**I’d rather have Jesus than worldwide fame**

**I’d rather be true to His holy name**

**Than to be the king of a vast domain**

**Or be held in sin’s dread sway**

**I’d rather have Jesus than anything**

**This world affords today**

**He’s fairer than lilies of rarest bloom**

**He’s sweeter than honey from out the comb**

**He’s all that my hungering spirit needs**

**I’d rather have Jesus and let Him lead**

**Than to be the king of a vast domain**

**Or be held in sin’s dread sway**

**I’d rather have Jesus than anything**

**This world affords today**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Thank God, our heavenly Father, who knows your needs before you do, and can satisfy every desire and need of your heart. May God accept our these as a gift of worship, 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**

Botswana:

A Free Methodist man living in Zimbabwe developed a burden for his home town in Botswana. Zimbabwe leaders organized a mission’s trip to the man’s village in 1998, near Francistown. The mission’s team was warmly welcomed, and the church began. There are 20 members and the church is officially registered under FMWM. Rev. Mapholisa leads the church planting project.

Pray for encouragement for the small group of believers who meet and their outreach to those affected by AIDS.

**\*Closing Hymn**: “In Christ There Is No East or West” #678 (vv.1-4)

**In Christ there is no east or west**

**In him no south or north**

**But one great fellowship of love**

**Throughout the whole wide earth**

**In Christ shall true hearts ev’rywhere**

**Their high communion find**

**His service is the golden cord**

**Close binding all mankind**

**Join hands, then, brothers of the faith**

**Whate’er your race may be**

**Who serves my Father as a son**

**Is surely kin to me**

**In Christ now meet both east and west**

**In him meet south and north.**

**All Christly souls are one in Him**

**Throughout the whole wide earth**

**\*Benediction**

L: May the peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God. May the love of God secure your hearts and minds in this world. May the knowledge of God instruct your ways, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.