**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 3, 2022**



*“After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.”*

*(Luke 10:1)*

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**PROPER 9 (14)**

**July 3, 2022**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth

**P: Sing the glory of God’s name**

L: Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!”

**P: Give to God glorious praise**

L: God turned the sea into dry land

**P: All the earth worships you**

L: Bless our God, O peoples

**P: Let the sound of God’s praise be heard**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “God of Our Fathers” #758 (vv.1-4)

**God of our fathers, whose almighty hand**

**Leads forth in beauty all the starry band**

**Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies**

**Our grateful songs before thy throne arise**

**Thy love divine hath led us in the past**

**In this free land by thee our lot is cast**

**Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay**

**Thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way**

**From war’s alarms, from deadly pestilence**

**Be thy strong arm our ever sure defense**

**Thy true religion in our hearts increase**

**Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace**

**Refresh thy people on their toilsome way**

**Lead us from night to never-ending day**

**Fill all our lives with love and grace divine**

**And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O God, who has taught us to keep your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of the Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to thee with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection. Help us to welcome each other and serve willingly together, as share your gospel to this world. Bind us all as one, 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:** 2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy.

Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman’s wife. She said to her mistress, “If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.”

So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, “Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.”

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.”

When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.”

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.”

So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.”

But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, “I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?”

He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean’?”

So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

**Prayer of Confession**

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

**P:** **Jesus Christ, the beginning and the end, the resurrection and the life, the perfect man who gave his life for sinners, I worship you, I adore you, I sing aloud your name. I am one of those you have saved, whom you set free, when you died on the cross. You redeemed me from the slavery of sin. I am like the dry sand of a desert thirsting for water. Good people work justice in the world, I pray you reward them. Patient people teach your ways, help breakdown the stubbornness of people. Humble people serve on your behalf, let the prideful appreciate their service. Let me receive your life-giving love and let me be free.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 30

L: I will extol you, O LORD

**P: For you have drawn me up**

L: O LORD my God, I cried to you for help

**P: And you have healed me**

L: O LORD, you brought up my soul from the Sheol

**P: Restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit**

L: Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones

**P: And give thanks to God’s holy name**

L: For God’s anger is but for a moment

**P: God’s favor is for a lifetime**

L: Weeping may linger for the night

**P: But joy comes with the morning**

L: You have turned my mourning into dancing

**P: You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy**

L: So that my soul may praise you and not be silent

**P: O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Lift High the Cross” #237 (vv.1,3-5)

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod**

**Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaims**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**O Lord, once lifted on this glorious tree**

**As Thou has promised, draw men unto Thee**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**Set up Thy throne, that earth’s despair may cease**

**Beneath the shadow of its healing peace**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**For Thy blest cross which doth for all atone**

**Creation’s praises rise before Thy throne**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Galatians 6:1-16

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves.

All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor’s work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads. Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit.

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up.

So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith. See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ.

Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule--peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

**Communion**

**MINISTER: THE INVITATION**

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who live in love and peace with

your neighbors and who intend to lead a new life, following the commandments

of God and walking in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy

sacrament to your comfort; and humbly kneeling, make your honest confession

to Almighty God.

**IN UNISON: THE GENERAL CONFESSION**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all

people, we confess that we have sinned, and we are deeply grieved as we

remember the wickedness of our past lives. We have sinned against You, Your

holiness and Your love, and we deserve only Your indignation and anger.

We sincerely repent, and we are genuinely sorry for all wrongdoing and every

failure to do the things we should. Our hearts are grieved, and we acknowledge

that we are hopeless without Your grace.

Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your son, our Savior, Jesus

Christ, who died for us.

Forgive us.

Cleanse us.

Give us strength to serve and please You in newness of life and to honor and praise

Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

O Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who with great mercy has promised

forgiveness to all who turn to You with hearty repentance and true faith, have

mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from our sins, make us strong and faithful in

all goodness and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CONGREGATION: THE COLLECT**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom

no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE SANCTUS**

It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times and

in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we

honor and adore Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying,

**CONGREGATION: THE SANCTUS (CONTINUED)**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord, most high. Amen

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

We do not come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, with self-confidence and

pride, trusting in our own righteousness, but we trust in Your great and many

mercies. We are not worthy to gather the crumbs from under Your table. But You,

O Lord, are unchanging in Your mercy and Your nature is love; grant us, therefore,

God of mercy, God of grace, so to eat at this Your table that we may receive in

spirit and in truth the body of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and the merits of His

shed blood, so that we may live and grow in His likeness and, being washed and

cleansed through His most precious blood, we may evermore live in Him and He

in us. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who gave in love Your only Son, Jesus Christ,

to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who by His sacrifice, offered

once for all, did provide a full, perfect, and sufficient atonement for the sins of the whole world,

we come now to Your table in obedience to Your Son, Jesus Christ, who in His holy gospel

commanded us to continue a perpetual memory of His precious death until He comes

again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we humbly ask, and grant that we, receiving this bread and this cup,

as He commanded and in the memory of His passion and death, may partake of His most blessed body and blood.

In the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

His disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In like manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of

this, all of you, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of

sins; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” Amen.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting

life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed upon Him in your heart, by faith with

thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life.

Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s blood was shed for you and be thankful.

**MINISTER: THE BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love

of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Spirit, be yours now and forever. Amen.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.

Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, ‘Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.’

“Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.”

The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!”

He said to them, “I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

**Sermon:** “People of Peace”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response****:** “I’ve Got Peace Like a River” (vv.1-3)

**I’ve got peace like a river**

**I’ve got peace like a river**

**I’ve got peace like a river in my soul**

**I’ve got peace like a river**

**I’ve got peace like a river**

**I’ve got peace like a river in my soul**

**I’ve got love like an ocean**

**I’ve got love like an ocean**

**I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul**

**I’ve got love like an ocean**

**I’ve got love like an ocean**

**I’ve got love like an ocean in my soul**

**I’ve got joy like a fountain**

**I’ve got joy like a fountain**

**I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul**

**I’ve got joy like a fountain**

**I’ve got joy like a fountain**

**I’ve got joy like a fountain in my soul**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Seek first the kingdom of God, 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**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “America, the Beautiful” #759 (vv.1-2,4)

**Oh beautiful, for spacious skies**

**For amber waves of grain**

**For purple mountain majesties**

**Above the fruited plain**

**America, America**

**God shed his grace on thee**

**And crowned thy good, in brotherhood**

**From sea to shining sea**

**Oh, beautiful for pilgrim feet**

**Whose stern, impassioned stress**

**A thoroughfare of freedom beat**

**Across the wilderness!**

**America! America!**

**God mend thine ev’ry flaw**

**Confirm thy soul in self-control**

**Thy liberty in law**

**Oh, beautiful for patriot dream**

**That sees beyond the years**

**Thine alabaster cities gleam**

**Undimmed by human tears!**

**America! America!**

**God shed his grace on thee,**

**And crown thy good with brotherhood**

**From sea to shining sea**

**\*Benediction**

L: God is sending us on our journey. May we follow as Christ leads us where we may not expect. Christ Jesus be our company and the Holy Spirit surround us with eternal grace. May the Spirit lead you, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.