**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 4, 2021**



*“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.’”*

 *(Mark 6:14)*

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**PROPER 9 (14)**

**July 4, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: To You, O Lord, we lift our eyes

**P: For You, O God, are enthroned in the heavens**

L: Our minds are focused on the work of the Master

**P: We live for the Lord our God, who has mercy on us**

L: Our souls welcome the Holy Spirit

**P: We seek the freedom that comes from God**

L: We boast in Christ’s power within us

**P: For when we are weak, then we are strong**

**\*Opening 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**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: We praise your abiding guidance, O God, for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, to model for us the way of love for the whole universe. Turn our hearts into strongholds of your grace, that the most vulnerable as well as the most powerful among us may find peace in the security that comes in the strong name of Jesus Christ. Heal our souls, 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**

**Old Testament Scripture Lesson:** 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10

 Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, “Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The LORD said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.”

 So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the LORD, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

 David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inward. And David became greater and greater, for the LORD, the God of hosts, was with him.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: To all of us as we sometimes are far away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation and forgiving. May we be healed and at peace with God so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P:** **Lord and most merciful God, I believe in you: increase my faith. I trust in you: strengthen my trust. I love you: Let me love you more and more. I am sorry for my sins: deepen my sorrow. I worship you as my first beginning, I long for you as my last end. I praise you as my constant helper, and call on you as my loving protector. Guide me by your wisdom, correct me with your justice, comfort me with your mercy, protect me with your power. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 48

**P: As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God, which God establishes forever. We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple. Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with victory. Let Mount Zion be glad, let the towns of Judah rejoice because of your judgments. Walk about Zion, go through its citadels, that you may tell the next generation that this is God, our God forever and ever. God will be our guide forever.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” #607 (vv.1-3)

**I am weak but Thou art strong**

**Jesus keep me from all wrong**

**I'll be satisfied as long**

**As I walk, let me walk close to Thee**

**Just a closer walk with Thee**

**Grant it, Jesus, is my plea**

**Daily walking close to Thee**

**Let it be, dear Lord, let it be**

**Thro’ this world of toil and snares**

**If I falter, Lord who cares?**

**Who with me my burden shares?**

**None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee**

**Just a closer walk with Thee**

**Grant it, Jesus, is my plea**

**Daily walking close to Thee**

**Let it be, dear Lord, let it be**

**When my feeble life is o'er**

**Time for me will be no more**

**Guide me gently, safely o'er**

**To Thy kingdom's shore, to Thy shore**

**Just a closer walk with Thee**

**Grant it, Jesus, is my plea**

**Daily walking close to Thee**

**Let it be, dear Lord, let it be**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

 I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person--whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows--was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat.

 On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated.

 Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.”

So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

**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.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Mark 6:1-13

 He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

 Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.”

 And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching.

 He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics.

 He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.”

 So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory” #756 (vv.1,4)

**Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord**

**He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored**

**He hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword**

**His truth is marching on**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah!**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah!**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah!**

**His truth is marching on**

**In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea**

**With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me**

**As he died to make us holy, let us die to make all free**

**While God is marching on**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah!**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah!**

**Glory, glory, hallelujah!**

**His truth is marching on**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Our eyes have seen God’s glory and grace. Give your hands to do God’s work, your feet to go God’s way, and your tongue to speak God’s truth. Surrender yourself, 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**: “Faith of Our Fathers” #639 (vv.1,3-4)

**Faith of the fathers, living still**

**In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword**

**Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy**

**Whene’er we hear that glorious word!**

**Faith of the fathers, holy faith,**

**We will be true to thee till death**

**Faith of the fathers, we will strive**

**To win all nations unto thee**

**And thro’ the truth that comes from God**

**Mankind shall then be truly free**

**Faith of the fathers, holy faith,**

**We will be true to thee till death**

**Faith of the fathers, we will love**

**Both friend and foe in all our strife**

**And preach thee, too, as love knows how**

**By kindly words and virtuous life**

**Faith of the fathers, holy faith,**

**We will be true to thee till death**

**\*Benediction**

L: Live in the world with no desire for its pleasures. Be a member of every family, belonging to all. Share all sufferings, heal all wounds. Be sustained by God’s grace, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.