**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 5, 2020**



*“’Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’” (Matthew 11:28-30)*

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**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**

L: Come to the refreshing waters God provides

**P: God is gracious and merciful; full of compassion**

L: Give ear, all people, to the Law of God

**P: God upholds all who are falling**

L: Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens

**P: The gentle Spirit of Christ invites us to rest**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “The Church’s One Foundation”

**The church's one foundation**

**Is Jesus Christ, her Lord**

**She is his new creation**

**By water and the Word**

**From heav'n he came and sought her**

**To be his holy bride**

**With His own blood He bought her**

**And for her life He died**

**Elect from ev'ry nation**

**Yet one o'er all the earth**

**Her charter of salvation**

**One Lord, one faith, one birth**

**One holy name she blesses**

**Partakes one holy food**

**And to one hope she presses**

**With ev'ry grace endued**

**Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: We come together, Gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. You sense the burdens carried by your people, and understand our weariness and fatigue. Your people long for refreshment and the journey is long and without respite. In this time of worship, bring rest and nourishment for the poor in spirit. Remind us your revelation comes to us because we are open to your word, as we pray together 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:** Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Then food was set before him, but he said, “I will not eat until I have told you what I have to say.”

 “Then tell us,” Laban said.

So he said, “I am Abraham’s servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has.

 My master made me swear, saying, ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’

 “I came today to the spring, and said, ‘O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, “Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,” and who will say to me, “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also” let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.’

 “Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels.

 Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.”

 And they called Rebekah, and said to her, “Will you go with this man?” She said, “I will.” So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, “May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.”

 Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming.

 And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, “Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?” The servant said, “It is my master.” So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: We live in a generation of complainers, rich in things but poor in spirit. They increasingly isolate in their abundance, denying the community of mutual care. We find fault in others, to maintain our control and domination. For our greed, let us confess…

**P: God of Mercy, we find wisdom in your law, and we intend on doing good; yet we find ourselves not understanding our own actions. We care for the world and desire restorative peace, but we also want control and power over others. We allow our sensibilities direct our opinions instead of using scripture. We use scripture to falsely support our sensibilities. We are bogged down in our own concerns, and too busy to see how they ignore your people in need. Forgive us, cleanse us. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 145

**P: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you. They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power, to make known to all people your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The LORD upholds all who are falling, and raises up all who are bowed down.**

**\*Hymn of Affirmation: “**Near to the Heart of God”

**There is a place of comfort sweet**

**Near to the heart of God**

**A place where we our Savior meet**

**Near to the heart of God**

**O Jesus, blest Redeemer**

**Sent from the heart of God**

**Hold us, who wait before thee**

**Near to the heart of God**

**There is a place of full release**

**Near to the heart of God**

**A place where all is joy and peace**

**Near to the heart of God**

**O Jesus, blest Redeemer**

**Sent from the heart of God**

**Hold us, who wait before thee**

**Near to the heart of God**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** Romans 7:15-25a

 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand.

 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**Special Music:** Micki Martin

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

 At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

 “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

**Beneath the cross of Jesus**

**I fain would take my stand**

**The shadow of a mighty Rock**

**Within a weary land**

**A home within the wilderness**

**A rest upon the way**

**From the burning of the noon-tide heat**

**And the burden of the day**

**I take, O cross, thy shadow**

**For my abiding place**

**I ask no other sunshine than**

**The sunshine of His face**

**Content to let the world go by**

**To know no gain nor loss**

**My sinful self my only shame**

**My glory all the cross**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: Many of us are blessed with abundant wealth. Others live under great financial burden. Give with overflowing hearts, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Prayer**

**Closing Hymn**: “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

**‘Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus**

**Just to take Him at His word**

**Just to rest upon His promise**

**Just to know, “Thus Saith the Lord”**

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him**

**How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er**

**Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus**

**O for grace, to trust Him more**

**Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,**

**Just from sin and self to cease**

**Just from Jesus simply taking**

**Life and rest, and joy and peace**

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him**

**How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er**

**Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus**

**O for grace, to trust Him more**

**Benediction**

L: Be delighted in doing God’s life-giving work. Share one another’s burdens as Christ shares ours. The yoke of God is light. Share this good news, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.