**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**June 13, 2021**



*“He also said, ‘The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.’”*

*(Mark 4:26-28)*

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**PROPER 6 (11)**

**June 13, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: We come to give thanks to the Lord

**P: To declare God’s steadfast love this day**

L: For you, O Lord, have hade us glad by your works

**P: I will sing for joy because you have created us and sustain us**

L: Therefore, we are confident in your will

**P: We will walk by faith, not by sight**

L: Others boast by the outward appearance

**P: We boast in Christ who lives in our hearts**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “He is Exalted” Handout (x2)

**He is exalted, the King is exalted on high**

**I will praise Him**

**He is exalted, forever exalted on high**

**And I will praise His name**

**He is the Lord, forever His truth shall reign**

**Heaven and earth rejoice in His holy name**

**He is exalted, the King is exalted on high**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: God of providence, through the ministry of your Son, free us from the grip of the tomb, that we may desire you as the fullness of life and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. As the Spirit guides us in ways we do not understand, remind us to follow. Move us to praise your gracious will, 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:** 1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”

Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”

Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD.”

But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”

Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.”

Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.”

Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”

He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: The Spirit is always on the move in ways and to places we don’t understand. Surrender to God’s grace so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P:** **My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you and I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road although I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for you are ever with me and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 20

**P: The LORD answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you! May God send you help from the sanctuary, and give you support from Zion. May God remember all your offerings, and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices. May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners. Now I know that the LORD will help the anointed…Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the LORD our God. They will collapse and fall, but we shall rise and stand upright. Give victory to the king, O LORD; answer us when we call.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “What Wondrous Love is This” #245 (vv.1-4)

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?**

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul?**

**What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss**

**To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul**

**To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**

**When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down**

**When I was sinking down, sinking down**

**When I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown**

**Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul**

**Christ laid aside his crown for my soul**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing**

**To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am**

**While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing**

**While millions join the theme, I will sing**

**And when from death I’m free I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on**

**And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on**

**And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be**

**And through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on**

**And through eternity I’ll sing on**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences.

We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Mark 4:26-34

He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “All the Way My Savior Leads Me” #559 (vv.1-3)

**All the way my Savior leads me**

**What have I to ask beside?**

**Can I doubt His tender mercy**

**Who through life has been my guide?**

**Heav’nly peace, divinest comfort**

**Here by faith in Him to dwell**

**For I know, whate’er befall me**

**Jesus doeth all things well**

**For I know, whate’er befall me**

**Jesus doeth all things well**

**All the way my Savior leads me**

**Cheers each winding path I tread**

**Gives me grace for ev'ry trial**

**Feeds me with the living bread**

**Though my weary steps may falter**

**And my soul athirst may be**

**Gushing from the rock before me**

**Lo! a spring of joy I see**

**Gushing from the rock before me**

**Lo! A spring of joy I see**

**All the way my Savior leads me**

**Oh, the fullness of His love**

**Perfect rest to me is promised**

**In my Father’s house above**

**When my spirit, clothed immortal**

**Wings its flight to realms of day**

**This my song through endless ages**

**Jesus led me all the way**

**This my song through endless ages**

**Jesus led me all the way**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:God leads us to a place of service, even when we least expect it. God has created all things and we are the stewards. So all may experience divine comfort, give in faith, 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**: “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” #698 (vv.1-3)

**We've a story to tell to the nations**

**That shall turn their hearts to the right**

**A story of truth and mercy**

**A story of peace and light**

**A story of peace and light**

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning**

**And the dawning to noonday bright**

**And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth**

**The kingdom of love and light**

**We've a song to be sung to the nations**

**That shall lift their hearts to the Lord**

**A song that shall conquer evil**

**And shatter the spear and sword**

**And shatter the spear and sword**

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning**

**And the dawning to noonday bright**

**And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth**

**The kingdom of love and light**

**We've a message to give to the nations**

**That the Lord who reigneth above**

**Has sent us His Son to save us**

**And show us that God is love**

**And show us that God is love**

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning**

**And the dawning to noonday bright**

**And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth**

**The kingdom of love and light**

**\*Benediction**

L: We have seen God’s kingdom of love and light. We never know what can happen when we sow seeds of grace. The fields are ripe, act with compassion, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.