**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 25, 2023



*“How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings…”*

*(Matthew 23:37)*

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**Prelude**

**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 Song:** “A Might Fortress is Our God” #30 (vv.1-4)

**A mighty Fortress is our God**

**A Bulwark never failing**

**Our Helper He amid the flood**

**Of mortal ills prevailing**

**For still our ancient foe**

**Doth seek to work us woe**

**His craft and power are great**

**And, armed with cruel hate**

**On earth is not his equal**

**Did we in our own strength confide**

**Our striving would be losing**

**Were not the right Man on our side**

**The Man of God’s own choosing**

**Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He**

**Lord Sabaoth His Name**

**From age to age the same**

**And He must win the battle**

**And though this world, with devils filled**

**Should threaten to undo us**

**We will not fear, for God hath willed**

**His truth to triumph through us**

**The Prince of Darkness grim**

**We tremble not for him His rage we can endure**

**For lo! his doom is sure**

**One little word shall fell him**

**That word above all earthly powers**

**No thanks to them, abideth**

**The Spirit and the gifts are ours**

**Through Him who with us sideth**

**Let goods and kindred go**

**This mortal life also**

**The body they may kill**

**God’s truth abideth still**

**His Kingdom is forever**

**\*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**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Congregational Song:** “Graves Into Gardens”

I searched the world

But it couldn't fill me

Man's empty praise

And treasures that fade

Are never enough

Then You came along

And put me back together

And every desire

Is now satisfied

Here in Your love (Hey)

Oh, there's nothing better than You

There's nothing better than You

Lord, there's nothing

Nothing is better than You

(Oh, yes I know it's true)

I'm not afraid

To show You my weakness

My failures and flaws

Lord, You've seen 'em all

And You still call me friend

'Cause the God of the mountain

Is the God of the valley

There's not a place

Your mercy and grace

Won't find me again

Oh, there's nothing better than You

There's nothing better than You

Lord, there's nothing

Nothing is better than You

(I know it's true)

Oh, there's nothing better than You

There's nothing better than You

Lord, there's nothing

Nothing is better than You

You turn mourning to dancing

You give beauty for ashes

You turn shame into glory

You're the only one who can

You turn mourning to dancing

You give beauty for ashes

You turn shame into glory

You're the only one who can

You turn graves into garden

You turn bones into armies

You turn seas into highways

You're the only one who can

You're the only one who can

Oh, there's nothing better than You

There's nothing better than You

Lord, there's nothing

Nothing is better than You

Oh, there's nothing better than You

There's nothing better than You

Lord, there's nothing

Nothing is better than You

You turn graves into gardens

You turn bones into armies

You turn seas into highways

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**Congregational Reading:** Historic Prayer

**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.**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 23:37-39

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

**Sermon:** “Place of God’s Peace”

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “I am Thine O Lord” #473 (vv.1-4)

**I am Thine, O Lord; I have heard Thy voice**

**And it told Thy love to me**

**But I long to rise in the arms of faith**

**And be closer drawn to Thee**

**Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord**

**To the cross where Thou has died**

**Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord**

**To Thy precious, bleeding side**

**Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord**

**By the pow’r of grace divine**

**Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope**

**And my will be lost in thine**

**Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord**

**To the cross where Thou has died**

**Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord**

**To Thy precious, bleeding side**

**O the pure delight of a single hour**

**That before Thy throne I spend**

**When I kneel in prayer and with Thee, my God**

**I commune as friend with friend**

**Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord**

**To the cross where Thou has died**

**Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord**

**To Thy precious, bleeding side**

**There are depths of love that I can not know**

**Till I cross the narrow sea**

**There are heights of joy that I may not reach**

**Till I rest in peace with Thee**

**Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord**

**To the cross where Thou has died**

**Draw me nearer, nearer blessed Lord**

**To Thy precious, bleeding side**

 **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**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn:** “Great Is the Lord” #69

**Great is the Lord**

**He is holy and just**

**By His power we trust**

**In His love**

**Great is the Lord**

**He is faithful and true**

**By His mercy He proves**

**He is love**

**Great is the Lord**

**And worthy of glory**

**Great is the Lord**

**And worthy of praise**

**Great is the Lord**

**Now lift up your voice**

**Now lift up your voice**

**Great is the Lord**

**Great is the Lord**

**Great is the Lord,**

**He is holy and just**

**By His power we trust**

**In His love**

**Great is the Lord**

**He is faithful, and true**

**By His mercy He proves**

**He is love**

**Great is the Lord**

**And worthy of glory**

**Great is the Lord**

**And worthy of praise**

**Great is the Lord**

**Now lift up your voice**

**Now lift up your voice**

**Great is the Lord**

**Great is the Lord**

**Great are you Lord**

**And worthy of glory**

**Great are you Lord**

**And worthy of praise**

**Great are you Lord**

**I lift up my voice**

**I lift up my voice**

**Great are you Lord**

**Great are you Lord**

**\*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.