**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**March 5, 2023**



*“And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."*

*(John 3:14-15)*

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**Second Sunday in Lent**

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: The Lord our God has done many wonderful things for us

**P: God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever**

L: Seek the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul

**P: I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart**

L: Judgment will again be founded on righteousness

**P: All the upright in heart will glory in him**

L: A person may think their own ways are right

**P: But the wise in heart keeps God’s commandments**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “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**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Hymn:** “You Are My King”

**I'm forgiven because You were forsaken**

**I'm accepted, You were condemned**

**I'm alive and well, Your spirit is within me**

**Because, You died and rose again**

**Amazing love, how can it be**

**That You, my King, would die for me**

**Amazing love, I know it's true**

**And it's my joy to honor You**

**In all I do, I honor You**

**I'm forgiven because You were forsaken, Lord**

**I'm accepted, You were condemned, yeah**

**I'm alive and well, Your spirit is within me**

**Because, You died and You rose again, thank You, Jesus**

**Amazing love, how can it be**

**You, my King, would die for me**

**Amazing love, I know it's true**

**And it's my joy to honor You**

**In all I do, I honor You**

**You are my King**

**You are my King**

**Jesus, You are my King**

**You are my King**

**You are my King**

**You are my King**

**Jesus, You are my King**

**You are my King**

**Amazing love, how can it be**

**You, my King, would die for me**

**Amazing love, I know it's true**

**And it's my joy to honor You**

**Amazing love, how can it be**

**You, my King, would die for me**

**Amazing love, I know it's true**

**And it's my joy to honor You**

**In all I do, I honor You**

**In all I do, I honor You**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy word, Jesus Christ thy Son. We thank you for your witness, and pray that we may be firmly grounded in its truth. Gather us, 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.​**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 121

**P:** **I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.**

**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**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 3:13-21

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

**Sermon** “”

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “I’d Rather Have Jesus” #456 (vv.1-3)

**I’d rather have Jesus than silver or gold**

**I’d rather be His than have riches untold**

**I’d rather have Jesus than houses or lands**

**I'd rather be led by His nail pierced hand**

**Than to be the king of a vast domain**

**Or be held in sin’s dread sway**

**I’d rather have Jesus than anything**

**This world affords today**

**I’d rather have Jesus than men’s applause**

**I’d rather be faithful to His dear cause**

**I’d rather have Jesus than worldwide fame**

**I’d rather be true to His holy name**

**Than to be the king of a vast domain**

**Or be held in sin’s dread sway**

**I’d rather have Jesus than anything**

**This world affords today**

**He’s fairer than lilies of rarest bloom**

**He’s sweeter than honey from out the comb**

**He’s all that my hungering spirit needs**

**I’d rather have Jesus and let Him lead**

**Than to be the king of a vast domain**

**Or be held in sin’s dread sway**

**I’d rather have Jesus than anything**

**This world affords today**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:God assures us comfort and provision in the Kingdom. As we are called to be fruitful servants within creation, we offer our lives and our hope of the world to come. Give for this vision, 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**: “How Great Thou Art” #33 (vv.1-4)

**O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder**

**Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made**

**I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder**

**Thy power throughout the universe displayed**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander**

**And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,**

**When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,**

**And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**And when I think of God, His Son not sparing**

**Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in**

**That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing**

**He bled and died to take away my sin**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation**

**And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart**

**Then I shall bow with humble adoration**

**And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee**

**How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**\*Benediction**

L: Be embraced by the Source of life. Be inspired by the Source of hope. Be sustained by the Source of grace. Be blessed by the Source of truth. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.