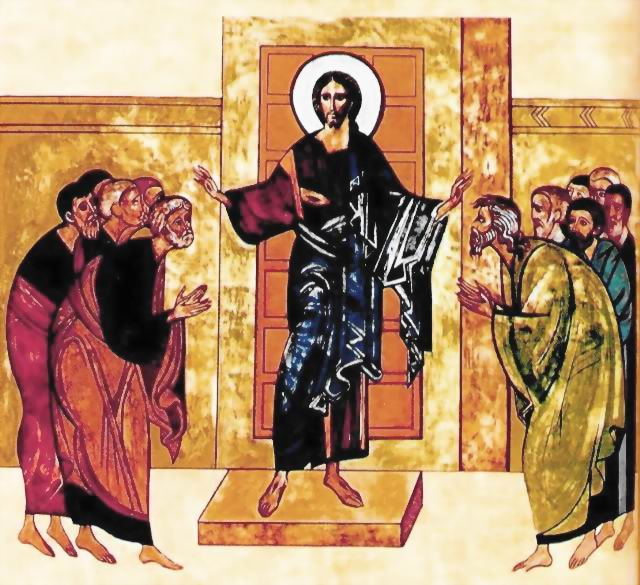
**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2023



*“And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting”*

*(Acts 9:5)*

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**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**May 14, 2023**

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

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

L: A woman of noble character, who can find?

**P: She is worth far more than rubies**

L: She is like the merchant ships

**P: Bringing her food from afar**

L: She opens her arms to the poor

**P: And extends her hands to the needy**

L: Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting

**P: But a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised**

**\*Opening Song:** “Shout to the Lord”

**My Jesus, my Savior**

**Lord, there is none like You**

**All of my days, I want to praise**

**The wonders of Your mighty love**

**My comfort, my shelter**

**Tower of refuge and strength**

**Let every breath, all that I am**

**Never cease to worship You**

**Shout to the Lord**

**All the earth let us sing**

**Power and majesty praise to the King**

**Mountains bow down and the seas will roar**

**At the sound of Your name**

**I sing for joy at the work of Your hands**

**Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand**

**Nothing compares to the promise I have in You**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdom: Grant that our Church, instructed by their teachings and example, and knit together in unity by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, which is Jesus Christ our Lord. Give us grace to imitate their obedience to your commands, 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.​**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Congregational Song:** “No Longer Slaves”

**You unravel me, with a melody**

**You surround me with a song**

**Of deliverance, from my enemies**

**Till all my fears are gone**

**I’m no longer a slave to fear**

**I am a child of God**

**I’m no longer a slave to fear**

**I am a child of God**

**From my mothers womb**

**You have chosen me**

**Love has called my name**

**I’ve been born again, into a family**

**Your blood flows through my veins**

**I’m no longer a slave to fear**

**I am a child of God**

**I’m no longer a slave to fear**

**I am a child of God**

**I am surrounded**

**By the arms of the father**

**I am surrounded**

**By songs of deliverance**

**We've been liberated**

**From our bondage**

**We're the sons and the daughters**

**Let us sing our freedom**

**You split the sea**

**So I could walk right through it**

**My fears were drowned in perfect love**

**You rescued me**

**And I will stand and sing**

**I am the child of God**

**You split the sea**

**So I could walk right through it**

**My fears were drowned in perfect love**

**You rescued me**

**And I will stand and sing**

**I am the child of God**

**I am a Child of God**

**I am a Child of God**

**I am a Child of God**

**I am a Child of God**

**I am a Child of God**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Apostle’s Creed

**P: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried. He descended into hades, the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.** **From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Special Music:** Micki Martin

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: Acts 9:1-9

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

Now as he journeyed he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed about him. And he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting; but rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul arose from the ground; and when his eyes were opened, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “Because He Lives” #256 (vv.1-3)

**God sent His son, they called Him Jesus**

**He came to love, heal and forgive**

**He lived and died to buy my pardon**

**An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives**

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow**

**Because He lives, all fear is gone**

**Because I know He holds the future**

**And life is worth the living, just because He lives**

**How sweet to hold a new born baby**

**And feel the pride and the joy that he gives**

**But greater still that calm assurance**

**This child can face uncertain days because**

**He lives**

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow**

**Because He lives, all fear is gone**

**Because I know He holds the future**

**And life is worth the living, just because He lives**

**And then one day, I'll cross the river**

**I'll fight life's final war with pain**

**And then, as death gives way to victory**

**I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns**

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow**

**Because He lives, all fear is gone**

**Because I know He holds the future**

**And life is worth the living, just because He lives**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God, 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:** “Living for Jesus” #496 (vv.1-2,4)

**Living for Jesus, a life that is true**

**Striving to please Him in all that I do**

**Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free**

**This is the pathway of blessing for me**

**O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee**

**For Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me**

**I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne**

**My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone**

**Living for Jesus, wherever I am**

**Doing each duty in His holy Name**

**Willing to suffer affliction and loss**

**Deeming each trial a part of my cross**

**O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee**

**For Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me**

**I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne**

**My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone**

**Living for Jesus through earth’s little while**

**My dearest treasure, the light of His smile**

**Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem**

**Bringing the weary to find rest in Him**

**O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to Thee**

**For Thou, in Thy atonement, didst give Thyself for me**

**I own no other Master, my heart shall be Thy throne**

**My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone**

**\*Benediction**

L: May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.