**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**DAY OF PENTECOST**

**May 23, 2021**



*“And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.”*

*(Acts 2:2-3)*

Minister: Rev. Jason Evans

First Free Methodist Church

2625 N. Center Rd.

Saginaw, Michigan 48603

Phone: (989) 799-2930

Email: saginawfmc@gmail.com

[www.saginawfirstfmc.org](http://www.saginawfirstfmc.org)

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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**

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

L: The Comforter has come

**P: The Holy Spirit lives in us**

L: Live by the Spirit, do not gratify the desires of the flesh

**P: We are led by the Spirit, we are not under the law**

L: The Fruits of the Spirit are Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control

**P: Against such things there is no law**

L: Those who belong to Christ have crucified the sinful nature

**P: Since we live by the Spirit, we will keep in step with the Spirit**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Come, Thou Almighty King” #3 (vv.1-4)

**Come, Thou Almighty King**

**Help us thy name to sing**

**Help us to praise**

**Father all glorious, over all victorious**

**Come and reign over us**

**Ancient of days**

**Come, Thou incarnate Word**

**Gird on Thy mighty sword**

**Our prayer attend**

**Come and Thy people bless**

**And give thy word success**

**Spirit of holiness on us descend**

**Come, holy comforter**

**Thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour**

**Thou who almighty art**

**Now rule in every heart**

**And never from us depart Spirit of power**

**To Thee, great one in three**

**Eternal praises be, hence ever more**

**Thy sovereign majesty**

**May we in glory see**

**And to eternity love and adore**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Empowering God, you gave the church the abiding presence of your Holy Spirit. Grant that, gathered and directed by your Spirit, we may confess Christ as Lord and combine our diverse gifts with a singular passion. Come in a mighty way to continue his mission, inspiring us to turn the sin and sorrow within us into faith, power, and delight. Give us passion, 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**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?

Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs, in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.”

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?”

But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning.

No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: The Spirit of Truth came to us so that we may not sin and we will know the way of Jesus. May our spirits grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**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.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 104

**P: O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in the works…I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to God, for I rejoice in the LORD.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart” #298 (vv.1,3-4)

**Spirit of God, descend upon my heart**

**Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move**

**Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art**

**And make me love Thee as I ought to love**

**Teach me to feel that Thou are always nigh**

**Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear**

**To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh**

**Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer**

**Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love**

**One holy passion filling all my frame**

**The baptism of the heaven-descended Dove**

**My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Romans 8:22-27

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen?

But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

**Special Music:** Micki Martin

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.”

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’

But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**\*Hymn of Response:** “Lift High the Cross” #237 (vv.1,4-5)

**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 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**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Our hope is in what we cannot see, so let us focus our giving on what cannot be destroyed. Where our treasure is, so is our heart. Seek the Kingdom of God first, 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**: “Rejoice, the Lord is King” #276 (vv.1-4)

**Rejoice, the Lord is King**

**Your Lord and King adore**

**Rejoice, give thanks and sing**

**And triumph evermore**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**Jesus, the Savior, reigns**

**The God of truth and love**

**When He had purged our stains**

**He took his seat above**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**His kingdom cannot fail**

**He rules o'er earth and heav'n**

**The keys of death and hell**

**Are to our Jesus giv’n**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**Rejoice in glorious hope**

**Our Lord, the Judge, shall come**

**And take His servants up**

**To their eternal home**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**\*Benediction**

L: The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness; is our Advocate. The Spirit guides us in all truth, so we can be advocates for others in need. Testify on God’s behalf, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.