**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Fourth Sunday Of Easter**

**May 3, 2020**



*“’The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.’” (John 10:2-4)*

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 3, 2020**

**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: We have come to celebrate and gather before God

**P: The God of the universe is with us**

L: Praise God for this season of Easter

**P: Praise God for the new life that has been given to us**

L: God leads us to pastures of abundant life

**P: Christ is our good shepherd**

L: Christ is here to protect and provide for us

**P: May we stay on the path of righteousness**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us**

**Much we need Thy tender care**

**In Thy pleasant pastures feed us**

**For our use Thy folds prepare**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus**

**Thou hast bought us, Thine we are**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus**

**Thou hast bought us, Thine we are**

**We are Thine, do Thou befriend us**

**Be the guardian of our way**

**Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us**

**Seek us when we go astray**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus**

**Hear, O hear us when we pray**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus**

**Hear, O hear us when we pray**

**Early let us seek Thy favor**

**Early let us do Thy will**

**Blessed Lord and only Savior**

**With Thy love our bosoms fill**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus**

**Thou hast loved us, love us still**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus**

**Thou hast loved us, love us still**

**Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O Good Shepherd, hear our voice today as we ask for your presence. Remind us that you have named us and call us each by the name; redeemed and loved. Lead us by refreshing waters, restore our souls to the abundant life you have for us. May we seek goodness and mercy as you have provided to us. Open the eyes and ears of those who are deceived, as we pray together 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**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Merciful God, you call us to meditate on your word and delight in your law. Sometimes we walk with the wicked and sit in the company of mockers. For the times we are led astray, let us confess…

**P: God of Mercy, we want to believe we are called by you and always follow on your path for us, but we find ourselves in the company of the wicked. We think because we have worldly riches, You are pleased with our spiritual life. We think that money, influence, and worldly wisdom is prosperity, when really they are like chaff blown in the wind. We believe we are mistreated, and suffer unjustly, when we are called to protect and share for others wellbeing. Our sin is ever before us, until we acknowledge it and confess. Remind us, to love and care for the people of the world is our mission. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 1

**P: Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither whatever they do prospers. Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

**\*Hymn of Affirmation: “**Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**What a blessedness, what a peace is mine**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**Leaning, leaning,**

**Safe and secure from all alarms**

**Leaning, leaning**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**O how bright the path grows from day to day**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**Leaning, leaning,**

**Safe and secure from all alarms**

**Leaning, leaning**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms?**

**I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**Leaning, leaning,**

**Safe and secure from all alarms**

**Leaning, leaning**

**Leaning on the everlasting arms**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** 1 Peter 2:19-25

For it is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval.

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**Special Music:** Micki Martin

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 10:1-10

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”

Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Sweet Hour of Prayer”

**Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer**

**That calls me from a world of care**

**And bids me at my Father's throne**

**Make all my wants and wishes known**

**In seasons of distress and grief**

**My soul has often found relief**

**And oft escaped the tempter's snare**

**By thy return, sweet hour of prayer**

**Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer**

**The joys I feel, the bliss I share**

**Of those whose anxious spirits burn**

**With strong desires for thy return!**

**With such I hasten to the place**

**Where God my Savior shows his face,**

**And gladly take my station there,**

**And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer**

**Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer**

**Thy wings shall my petition bear**

**To him whose truth and faithfulness**

**Engage the waiting soul to bless.**

**And since he bids me seek his face,**

**Believe his word, and trust his grace,**

**I'll cast on him my every care,**

**And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: All who believed were together and shared all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as anyone had need. This is what it means to be the church. Live this way, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Prayer**

**Closing Hymn**: “Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus”

**O soul, are you weary and troubled?**

**No light in the darkness you see?**

**There’s light for a look at the Savior**

**And life more abundant and free**

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,**

**Look full in His wonderful face**

**And the things of earth will grow strangely dim**

**In the light of His glory and grace**

**His Word shall not fail you--He promised**

**Believe Him, and all will be well**

**Then go to a world that is dying**

**His perfect salvation to tell**

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus**

**Look full in His wonderful face**

**And the things of earth will grow strangely dim**

**In the light of His glory and grace**

**Benediction**

L: God has called you, and you have heard God’s voice. God protects you and provides for you, may you do the same for your neighbor. Pray, break bread, and let all things be for the common good, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.