**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 25, 2020**



*“He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’” (Matthew 22:37-40)*

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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 Lord God has always been our dwelling place

**P: We are not of this world**

L: Our ancestors in the faith obeyed God’s word

**P: We commit our lives to again this day**

L: Service to the Lord is not in vein

**P: The word of God does not come back void**

L: We will love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, strength

**P: We will love our neighbor as ourselves**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “This is My Father’s World” #75 (v.1)

**This is my Father’s world**

**And to my list’ninig ear**

**All nature sings and round me rings**

**The music of the spheres**

**This is my Father’s world**

**I rest me in the thought**

**Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas**

**His hand the wonders wrought**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: God of courage and strength, you enable those who serve you in love for their neighbor. You give us strength to humble ourselves and endure shame, just as Christ did in going to the cross. Remind us to share your love in truth, and with no attempt to gain for ourselves in return. Teach us to love you and our neighbor, 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**

**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:** Deuteronomy 34:1-12

 Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, the Negeb, and the Plain -- that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees -- as far as Zoar.

 The LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants’; I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.”

 Then Moses, the servant of the LORD, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. He was buried in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired and his vigor had not abated.

 The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, because Moses had laid his hands on him; and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the LORD had commanded Moses.

 Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face. He was unequaled for all the signs and wonders that the LORD sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: The Lord said through Moses, “Be ye holy, for I, your God, am holy.” Yet we often seek our own glory and satisfaction. We accommodate for wickedness rather than righteousness. For our self-indulgence, let us repent…

**P: God who is our resting place, we confess we are jealous of your love for others as well. We seek comfort and care from the Spirit that advocates for us, and still do not advocate for others. We quickly give up when facing opposition to sharing your Gospel. We are angered when others point out our shortcomings. We prefer to be served rather than kneeling and washing others feet. Teach us to be gentle towards others and to care for the world as you care. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 90

**P: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.” For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

**\*Hymn of Affirmation:** “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” #95 (v.6)

**O God, our help in ages past**

**Our hope for years to come**

**Be Thou our guide while life shall last**

**And our eternal home**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

 You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition.

 For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts.

 As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 22:34-46

 When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

 He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.”

 He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet’”?

 If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?”

 No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**\*Hymn of Response:** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #147 (v.6)

**In Christ, your head, ye then shall know**

**Shall feel your sins for giv’n**

**Anticipate your heav’n below**

**And own that love is heav’n**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Being well integrated into the kingdom means actively serving, not just saying or thinking correctly. The Gospel message is for us to share. Give out of love for God and neighbor, 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**

**\*Hymn**: “God of Grace and God of Glory” #720 (v.1)

**Set our feet on lofty places**

**Gird our lives that they may be**

**Armored with all Christlike graces**

**In the fight to set men free**

**Grant us wisdom, grant us courage**

**That we fail not man nor Thee**

**That we fail not man nor Thee**

**\*Benediction**

L: God has ordered this world around showing love and compassion for all people. May your lives witness to this most important truth. God has entrusted us with the Gospel, share it with all for God’s glory, not your own. Share of yourselves, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.