**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 3, 2021**



*“’Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.”*

 *(Mark 10:15-16)*

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**Proper 22 (27)**

**October 3, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: This is a call to all the dead and disappointed

**P: We are soaked in all the grace that we’ve been given**

L: This is a word to all the ones who feel forgotten

**P: The Holy Spirit is always watching over us**

L: To the ones who feel exhausted and overwhelmed

**P: God’s mercies are rising like the sun on the horizon**

L: God is calling us into the Kingdom of Heaven

**P: Because, we are alive, alive in God**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” #625 (vv.1-3)

**What a friend we have in Jesus**

**All our sins and griefs to bear**

**What a privilege to carry**

**Everything to God in prayer**

**Oh, what peace we often forfeit**

**Oh, what needless pain we bear**

**All because we do not carry**

**Everything to God in prayer**

**Have we trials and temptations?**

**Is there trouble anywhere?**

**We should never be discouraged**

**Take it to the Lord in prayer**

**Can we find a friend so faithful**

**Who will all our sorrows share?**

**Jesus knows our every weakness**

**Take it to the Lord in prayer**

**Are we weak and heavy laden**

**Cumbered with a load of care?**

**Precious Savior, still our refuge**

**Take it to the Lord in prayer**

**Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?**

**Take it to the Lord in prayer**

**In His arms he’ll take and shield thee**

**Thou wilt find a solace there**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Eternal One, whose thoughts and ways are not ours, you alone are God, awesome, holy, and most high. School us in the ways of faith and wisdom, that we, like Job, may learn to truly see and hear, and in humility find blessing. Guide us to understanding, 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:** Job 1:1, 2:1-10

 There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

 The LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.”

 Then Satan answered the LORD, “Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.”

 The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.”

 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

 Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.”

 But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?”

In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: To the one who receives and hears our filed complaints: Who forgives us when we seek to live apart. Who forgives the words that erupt from our mouths. Who forgives the hurtful thoughts we think. Seek God’s forgiveness, so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P:** **You meet every need and provide for us out of your abundance. You give us far more than we ask or deserve, by promising us the riches of eternal life. Yet we are easily led astray. We become very attached to the things of this earth and put our trust in them; then we are disappointed when they do not satisfy. For putting temporal things above heavenly things, forgive us, O Lord. Many people suffer and they know why. Others are straining under burdens which they do not understand, and the load seems heavier. Give rest for troubled minds; give release to hurting bodies; give hope to those in despair; and grant us all salvation because we know all things are possible with you. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 26

**P: Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you. I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked. I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O LORD, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds. O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides. Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with the bloodthirsty, those in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes. But as for me, I walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Love Lifted Me” #395 (vv.1-3)

**I was sinking deep in sin**

**Far from the peaceful shore**

**Very deeply stained within**

**Sinking to rise no more**

**But the Master of the sea**

**Heard my despairing cry**

**From the waters lifted me**

**Now safe am I**

**Love lifted me! Love lifted me!**

**When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.**

**Love lifted me! Love lifted me!**

**When nothing else could help, Love lifted me**

**Souls in danger, look above**

**Jesus completely saves**

**He will lift you by his love**

**Out of the angry waves**

**He’s the Master of the sea**

**Billows his will obey**

**He your Savior wants to be**

**Be saved today**

**Love lifted me! Love lifted me!**

**When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.**

**Love lifted me! Love lifted me!**

**When nothing else could help, Love lifted me**

**All my heart to Him I give**

**Ever to Him I’ll cling**

**In His blessed presence live**

**Ever His praises sing**

**Love so mighty and so true**

**Merits my soul’s best song**

**Faithful, loving service too**

**To Him belong Love lifted me!**

**Love lifted me! Love lifted me!**

**When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.**

**Love lifted me! Love lifted me!**

**When nothing else could help, Love lifted me**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

 Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, “What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, “I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Mark 10:2-16

 Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”

 He answered them, “What did Moses command you?”

 They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.”

 But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘or this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

 Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

 People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”

 And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

**Sermon:** Rev. John Vannest

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “I Love to Tell the Story” #696 (vv.1-4)

**I love to tell the story, of unseen things above**

**Of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love**

**I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true**

**It satisfies my longings, as nothing else could do**

**I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory**

**To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love**

**I love to tell the story, more wonderful it seems**

**Than all the golden fancies, of all our golden dreams**

**I love to tell the story, it did so much for me**

**And that is just the reason, I tell it now to thee**

**I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory**

**To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love**

**I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat**

**What seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet**

**I love to tell the story, for some have never heard**

**The message of salvation from God's own holy Word**

**I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory**

**To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love**

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best**

**Seem hungering and thirsting, to hear it like the rest**

**And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song**

**‘Twill be the old, old story, that I have loved so long**

**I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory**

**To tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated faithfulness in all of life, even to death on a cross. With grace and strength, faithfully follow as your duty. Give joyfully, 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**: “When We All Get to Heaven” #650 (vv.1-4)

**Sing the wondrous love of Jesus**

**Sing his mercy and his grace**

**In the mansions bright and blessed**

**He'll prepare for us a place**

**When we all get to heaven**

**What a day of rejoicing that will be!**

**When we all see Jesus**

**We'll sing and shout the victory**

**While we walk the pilgrim pathway**

**Clouds will over spread the sky**

**But when traveling days are over**

**Not a shadow not a sigh**

**When we all get to heaven**

**What a day of rejoicing that will be!**

**When we all see Jesus**

**We'll sing and shout the victory**

**Let us then be true and faithful**

**Trusting, serving every day**

**Just one glimpse of Him in glory**

**Will the toils of life repay**

**When we all get to heaven**

**What a day of rejoicing that will be!**

**When we all see Jesus**

**We'll sing and shout the victory**

**Onward to the prize before us**

**Soon His beauty we’ll behold**

**Soon the pearly gates will open**

**We shall tread the streets of gold**

**When we all get to heaven**

**What a day of rejoicing that will be!**

**When we all see Jesus**

**We'll sing and shout the victory**

**\*Benediction**

L: God is our companion, our light, our joy, and our guide. Therefore, be a friend to the poor, a rescuer of the perishing, and hope to the dying. Be bound to Christ this day and always, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.