**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 11, 2022**



*“Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:10)*

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**PROPER 19 (24)**

**September 11, 2022**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love

**P: Create in me a clean heart, O God**

L: Let me hear joy and gladness

**P: Put a new and right spirit within me**

L: You desire truth in the inward being

**P: Therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart**

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me

**P: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” #65 (vv.1-4)

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise**

**In light inaccessible hid from our eyes**

**Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days**

**Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light**

**Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might**

**Thy justice like mountains high soaring above**

**Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small**

**In all life Thou livest, the true life of all**

**Thy wisdom so boundless, Thy mercy so free**

**Eternal Thy goodness for naught changeth Thee**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light**

**Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight**

**All laud we would render, O help us to see**

**Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Merciful God, your desire to bring us into your commonwealth is so great that you seek us in the places of our ignorance, and the forgotten corners where we hide in despair. Gather us into your loving embrace, and pour upon us your wise and holy Spirit, so that we may become faithful servants in whom you rejoice with all the company of heaven. Visit us your people, 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:** Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

 At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse, a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

 “For my people are foolish, they do not know me; they are stupid children, they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good.”

 I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.

I looked, and lo, there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled. I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

 For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end. Because of this the earth shall mourn, and the heavens above grow black; for I have spoken, I have purposed; I have not relented nor will I turn back.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Lord, by your grace, enlighten our understanding, strengthen our will, purify our hearts, and make us holy...

**P:** **Lord God, whose we are and whom we serve, help us to glorify you this day, in all the thoughts of our hearts, in all the words of our lips, and in all the works of our hands, as becomes those who are your servants. I give you my hands to do your work. I give you my feet to go your way. I give you my mind that you may think in me. I give you my spirit that you may pray in my. Above all, I give you my heart that you love in me your Father and all mankind. I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that it is you, Lord God, who live and work and pray in me. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 14

**P: Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God. They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one. Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the LORD? There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous. You would confound the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” #578 (vv.1-4)

**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**

**Thou hast promised to receive us**

**Poor and sinful though we be**

**Thou hast mercy to relieve us**

**Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus**

**Early let us turn to Thee**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus**

**Early let us turn to Thee**

**Early let us seek Thy favor**

**Early let us do Thy will**

**Blessed Lord and only Savior**

**With Thy love our beings fill**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus**

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

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus**

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

**Second Scripture Lesson:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

 I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

 The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 15:1-10

 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

 So he told them this parable, “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’

 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

 “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**Sermon** “Rejoicing for Repentance”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “O How I Love Jesus” #137 (vv.1-4)

**There is a name I love to hear**

**I love to sing its worth**

**It sounds like music in my ear**

**The sweetest name on earth**

**O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus**

**O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me**

**It tells me of a Savior’s love**

**Who died to set me free**

**It tells me of his precious blood**

**The sinner’s perfect plea**

**O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus**

**O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me**

**It tells me what my Father hath**

**In store for every day**

**And tho’ I tread a dark-some path**

**Yields sunshine all the way**

**O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus**

**O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me**

**It tells of one whose loving heart**

**Can feel my deepest woe**

**Who in each sorrow bears a part**

**That none can bear below**

**O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus**

**O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. Do not worry about your life, but have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Give without worry, 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**

**Bulgaria:** A primary focus of ministry in Bulgaria is church planting and leadership development. Regular training events are held for pastors and church leaders, and some additional conferences take place each summer for youth and families. There are now 26 churches in Bulgaria, and in 2020 the Balkan Provisional Annual Conference was organized. St. John’s Home (a safe house for at-risk young women), an agricultural project and a Bible school are all operated by national leaders. Two missionary families currently work alongside national leaders: Chance and DeeDee Galloway and David and Jill Sweet.

Pray for the continued growth of leadership and vision for the Balkan Provisional Annual Conference, the expanding work in the Balkan region, and the success of the Light and Life Church as they train and shape the next generation.

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Shine, Jesus, Shine” (vv.1-3)

**Lord, the light of your love is shining**

**In the midst of the darkness, shining**

**Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us**

**Set us free by the truth you now bring us**

**Shine on me, shine on me**

**Shine, Jesus, shine**

**Fill this land with the Father's glory**

**Blaze, Spirit, blaze**

**Set our hearts on fire**

**Flow, river, flow**

**Flood the nations with grace and mercy**

**Send forth your word**

**Lord, and let there be light**

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence**

**From the shadows into your radiance**

**By the blood I may enter your brightness**

**Search me, try me, consume all my darkness**

**Shine on me, shine on me**

**Shine, Jesus, shine**

**Fill this land with the Father's glory**

**Blaze, Spirit, blaze**

**Set our hearts on fire**

**Flow, river, flow**

**Flood the nations with grace and mercy**

**Send forth your word**

**Lord, and let there be light**

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness**

**So our faces display your likeness**

**Ever changing from glory to glory**

**Mirrored here may our lives tell your story**

**Shine on me, shine on me**

**Shine, Jesus, shine**

**Fill this land with the Father's glory**

**Blaze, Spirit, blaze**

**Set our hearts on fire**

**Flow, river, flow**

**Flood the nations with grace and mercy**

**Send forth your word**

**Lord, and let there be light**

**\*Benediction**

L: Christ has come to seek the lost, to which he gave his life. Love the lost as Christ loved you. Go to the ends of the earth, as Christ commands. Filled with the Holy Spirit, go in peace to love and serve. Amen.