**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 6, 2020**



*“This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.” (Exodus 12:14)*

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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**

L: God is calling us into new life

**P: We will follow God with haste**

L: God is preparing a way to a better place for us

**P: Where God leads, we will follow**

L: God’s paths are ways of love and provisions for all people

**P: We will live honorably and do no wrong to our neighbor**

L: Be bound to the things in heaven

**P: We know love is fulfilling the law of God**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” #765 (vv.1-2)

**Come, ye thankful people, come**

**Raise the song of harvest home**

**All is safely gathered in**

**Ere the winter storms begin**

**God our Maker doth provide**

**For our wants to be supplied**

**Come to God's own temple, come**

**Raise the song of harvest home**

**All the world is God's own field**

**Fruit unto His praise to yield**

**Wheat and tares together sown**

**Unto joy or sorrow grown**

**First the blade and then the ear**

**Then the full corn shall appear**

**Lord of harvest, grant that we**

**Wholesome grain and pure may be**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Everlasting God, you call us to follow you out of the darkness and into your glory. We come to celebrate your covenant with us, and the earth. We ask that you speak to us at this time, remind us of our commitment to you and your law. Reveal to us better ways to care for the world and all the people therein. Help us to love as you have loved, 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:** Exodus 12:1-14

 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.

 If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

 You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

 Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the LORD.

 For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

 This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Paul tells us to put away quarreling, jealousy, and harmful behavior. Christ Jesus instructs us to make peace with one another. But we often seek violent retribution, with our fists and our mouths. Let us learn God’s ways of peace…

**P: God of love, you clearly teach in your word and by the example of Christ Jesus, that we are to love one another. You exact your vengeance on those who enslave, oppress, and deny liberation for the people in their care. But we often support those who oppress the ones we are called to love. We empower the Pharaohs of our time to deny liberty to the masses. We are in favor of denying other’s rights and responsibilities. We then take your name in vain by saying we are doing your work and your will. Teach us to put away the works of darkness. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 149

**P: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, God’s praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise God’s name with dancing, making melody to God with tambourine and lyre. For the LORD takes pleasure in God’s people; God adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. Let the high praises of God be in their throats…”**

**\*Hymn of Affirmation:** “All Hail King Jesus” #123 (2x)

**All Hail King Jesus**

**All Hail Emmanuel**

**King Of Kings**

**Lord Of Lords**

**Bright Morning Star**

**And Throughout Eternity**

**I’ll Sing Your Praises**

**And I’ll Reign With You Throughout Eternity**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson**: Romans 13:8-14

 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy.

 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Communion**

**MINISTER: THE INVITATION**

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who live in love and peace with

your neighbors and who intend to lead a new life, following the commandments

of God and walking in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy

sacrament to your comfort; and humbly kneeling, make your honest confession

to Almighty God.

**IN UNISON: THE GENERAL CONFESSION**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all

people, we confess that we have sinned, and we are deeply grieved as we

remember the wickedness of our past lives. We have sinned against You, Your

holiness and Your love, and we deserve only Your indignation and anger.

We sincerely repent, and we are genuinely sorry for all wrongdoing and every

failure to do the things we should. Our hearts are grieved, and we acknowledge

that we are hopeless without Your grace.

Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your son, our Savior, Jesus

Christ, who died for us.

Forgive us.

Cleanse us.

Give us strength to serve and please You in newness of life and to honor and praise

Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

O Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who with great mercy has promised

forgiveness to all who turn to You with hearty repentance and true faith, have

mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from our sins, make us strong and faithful in

all goodness and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CONGREGATION: THE COLLECT**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom

no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE SANCTUS**

It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times and

in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we

honor and adore Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying,

**CONGREGATION: THE SANCTUS (CONTINUED)**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord, most high. Amen

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

We do not come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, with self-confidence and

pride, trusting in our own righteousness, but we trust in Your great and many

mercies. We are not worthy to gather the crumbs from under Your table. But You,

O Lord, are unchanging in Your mercy and Your nature is love; grant us, therefore,

God of mercy, God of grace, so to eat at this Your table that we may receive in

spirit and in truth the body of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and the merits of His

shed blood, so that we may live and grow in His likeness and, being washed and

cleansed through His most precious blood, we may evermore live in Him and He

in us. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who gave in love Your only Son, Jesus Christ,

to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who by His sacrifice, offered

once for all, did provide a full, perfect, and sufficient atonement for the sins of the whole world,

we come now to Your table in obedience to Your Son, Jesus Christ, who in His holy gospel

commanded us to continue a perpetual memory of His precious death until He comes

again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we humbly ask, and grant that we, receiving this bread and this cup,

as He commanded and in the memory of His passion and death, may partake of His most blessed body and blood.

In the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

His disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In like manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of

this, all of you, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of

sins; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” Amen.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting

life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed upon Him in your heart, by faith with

thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life.

Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s blood was shed for you and be thankful.

**MINISTER: THE BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love

of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Spirit, be yours now and forever. Amen.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 18:15-20

 “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Rise Up, O Church of God” #724 (vv.1-4)

**Rise up, O church of God**

**Have done with lesser things**

**Give heart and soul and mind and strength**

**To serve the King of kings**

**Rise up, O church of God**

**From vain ambitions turn**

**Christ rose triumphant that your hearts**

**With nobler zeal might burn**

**Rise up, O church of God**

**His kingdom’s task embrace**

**Redress sin’s cruel consequences**

**Give justice larger place**

**Lift high the cross of Christ**

**Tread where His feet have trod**

**As followers of the Son of Man**

**Rise up, O church of God**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: God told the Hebrews to offer their best to God. God tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let us, as we offer to God, give generously for the needs of others. Let love motivate, 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**: “Love Lifted Me” #395 (vv.1-2)

**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**

**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**

**Benediction**

L: God has called us out of empires of oppression. We are to love one another, as we follow Christ’ example. Be like minded, working your differences, so you may bring heaven to earth. Create a world of justice, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.