**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023



*“Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?”*

*(John 14:10)*

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**Third Sunday of Easter**

**April 23, 2023**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: God has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ

**P: Where, O death, is your victory?**

L: Death has been swallowed up in resurrection

**P: Where, O death, is your sting?**

L: Christ has indeed been raised from the dead

**P: The first fruits of those who have fallen asleep**

L: For this very reason Christ died and returned to life

**P: So that He might be the Lord of both the living and the dead**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #20 (vv.1-4)

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!**

**O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation**

**All ye who hear; now to his temple draw near**

**Join me in glad adoration**

**Praise to the Lord, who o’er all things so wondrously reigneth**

**Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth**

**Has thou not seen how thy desires all have been**

**Granted in what He ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee**

**Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee**

**Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do**

**If with His love he befriend thee**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!**

**All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him**

**Let the amen sound from his people again**

**Gladly forever adore Him**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O Great Invisible God, we give you praise. All the works that you have made, are clearly seen and plain as day. Your power eternal, your nature divine; All creation tells the tale of your love for us. In the seed that descends to the old earth, and rises again with a new birth; the sweet story of resurrection. Mighty and tender God, let me remember whose grace makes us clean, 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.​**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Hymn:** “More Love to Thee” #463 (vv.1-3)

**More love to Thee, oh Christ, more love to Thee!**

**Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.**

**This is my earnest plea**

**More love, oh Christ, to Thee**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

**Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest**

**Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best.**

**This all my prayer shall be**

**More love, oh Christ to Thee**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

**Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise**

**This be the parting cry my heart shall raise**

**Still all my prayer shall be**

**More love, oh Christ to Thee**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

**Affirmation of Faith:** I Peter 1

**P: You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 14:1-14

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, I would have told you, for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. Where I am going you know, and the way you know.

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask for anything, I will do it.

**Sermon:** “The Unifying Messiah”

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “My Tribute” #35

**How can I say thanks**

**For the things You have done for me?**

**Things so undeserved**

**Yet You gave to prove Your love for me**

**The voices of a million angels**

**Could not express my gratitude**

**All that I am and ever hope to be**

**I owe it all to Thee**

**To God be the glory**

**To God be the glory**

**To God be the glory**

**For the things He has done**

**With His blood He has saved me**

**With His power He has raised me**

**To God be the glory**

**For the things He has done**

**Just let me live my life**

**Let it pleasing, Lord to Thee**

**And if I gain any praise**

**Let it go to Calvary**

**With His blood He has saved me**

**With His power He has raised me**

**To God be the glory**

**For the things He has done**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: Come, Holy Ghost, Creator come. From thy bright heavenly throne, take possession of our souls and make them all thy own. May we in turn give all our possessions as our act of worship, 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:** “O Christians, Haste” #712 (vv.1-4)

**O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling**

**To tell to all the world that God is light**

**That He who made all nations is not willing**

**One soul should perish, lost in shades of night**

**Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace**

**Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release**

**Behold how many thousands still are lying**

**Bound in the darksome prison house of sin**

**With none to tell them of the Savior’s dying**

**Or of the life He died for them to win**

**Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace**

**Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release**

**Proclaim to every people, tongue, and nation**

**That God, in Whom they live and move, is love**

**Tell how He stooped to save His lost creation**

**And died on earth that we might live above**

**Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace**

**Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release**

**Give of your young to bear the message glorious**

**Give of your wealth to speed them on their way**

**Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious**

**And all your spending Jesus will repay**

**Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace**

**Tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release**

**\*Benediction**

L: The resurrection has given us new life and renewed hope. Be granted the wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.