**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 25, 2021**



*“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.”*

*(John 10:14-15)*

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**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**April 25, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Because of His great love for us, God in rich mercy

**P: Made us alive in Christ from the fullness of His grace**

L: Salvation alone comes from Jesus of Nazareth

**P: Who leads us to green pastures and still waters**

L: Jesus, the stone rejected by the builders, became the cornerstone

**P: He anoints my head with oil, and our cup overflows**

L: We know love, because he laid down his life for us

**P: We will lay down our lives for one another**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” #124 (vv.1-4)

**All hail the power of Jesus' name!**

**Let angels prostrate fall**

**Bring forth the royal diadem**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**Bring forth the royal diadem**

**And crown him Lord of all!**

**O chosen seed of Israel's race**

**Now ransomed from the fall**

**Hail him who saves you by his grace**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**Hail him who saves you by his grace**

**And crown him Lord of all!**

**Let every kindred every tribe**

**On this terrestrial ball**

**To him all majesty ascribe**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**To him all majesty ascribe**

**And crown him Lord of all!**

**Oh, that with yonder sacred throng**

**We at his feet may fall**

**We'll join the everlasting song**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**We'll join the everlasting song**

**And crown him Lord of all**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power. Our God, we give you thanks and praise your glorious name, 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:** Acts 4:5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?”

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is ‘the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.’ There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: The Good Shepherd lays down their life for the sheep. We believe in the name Jesus Christ and love one another as we’re commanded. May we abide in Him…

**P: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Apostle’s Creed

**P: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried. He descended into hades, the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “I Will Sing the Wondrous Story” #384 (vv.1-2,5)

**I will sing the wondrous story**

**Of the Christ who died for me**

**How He left His home in glory**

**For the cross of Calvary**

**Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story**

**Of the Christ who died for me**

**Sing it with the saints in glory**

**Gathered by the crystal sea**

**I was lost, but Jesus found me**

**Found the sheep that went astray**

**Threw His loving arms around me**

**Drew me back into His way**

**Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story**

**Of the Christ who died for me**

**Sing it with the saints in glory**

**Gathered by the crystal sea**

**He will keep me till the river**

**Rolls its waters at my feet**

**Then He'll bear me safely over**

**Where the loved ones I shall meet**

**Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story**

**Of the Christ who died for me**

**Sing it with the saints in glory**

**Gathered by the crystal sea**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Special Music**: Don Gingrich

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** John 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “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**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The Scriptures ask if God’s love abides in anyone who has resources and refuse to help those in need. Support the church and other ministries that share the good news. Let your love be seen in truth and action, 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:** “The Solid Rock” #436 (vv.1,3-4)

**My hope is built on nothing less**

**Than Jesus blood and righteousness**

**I dare not trust the sweetest frame**

**But wholly lean on Jesus’ name**

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**His oath, His covenant, His blood**

**Support me in the whelming flood**

**When all around my soul gives way**

**He then is all my hope and stay**

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound**

**O may I then in Him be found**

**Dressed in His righteousness alone**

**Faultless to stand before the throne**

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**\*Benediction**

L: There is One Shepherd, Christ Jesus who loves us and laid down his life for us. There is one flock, we who obey His commands and love one another. Lay down your life, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.