**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 7, 2022**



*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:34)*

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**PROPER 14 (19)**

**August 7, 2022**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: The LORD looks down from heaven

**P: From where he sits enthroned, he watches all the inhabitants of the earth**

L: Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him

**P: He who fashions the hearts of them all, and observes all their deeds**

L: Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us

**P: Our soul waits for the LORD**

L: Even as we hope in you

**P: Our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” #30 (vv.1-4)

**A mighty Fortress is our God**

**A Bulwark never failing**

**Our Helper He amid the flood**

**Of mortal ills prevailing**

**For still our ancient foe**

**Doth seek to work us woe**

**His craft and power are great**

**And, armed with cruel hate**

**On earth is not his equal**

**Did we in our own strength confide**

**Our striving would be losing**

**Were not the right Man on our side**

**The Man of God’s own choosing**

**Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He**

**Lord Sabaoth His Name**

**From age to age the same**

**And He must win the battle**

**And though this world, with devils filled**

**Should threaten to undo us**

**We will not fear, for God hath willed**

**His truth to triumph through us**

**The Prince of Darkness grim**

**We tremble not for him His rage we can endure**

**For lo! his doom is sure**

**One little word shall fell him**

**That word above all earthly powers**

**No thanks to them, abideth**

**The Spirit and the gifts are ours**

**Through Him who with us sideth**

**Let goods and kindred go**

**This mortal life also**

**The body they may kill**

**God’s truth abideth still**

**His Kingdom is forever**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Grant to us, O Lord, we beseech you, the spirit to think and do always such things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to thy will. You have created all things by the power of your word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit. Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, 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:** Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.

When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation-- I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

**Prayer of Confession**

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

**P: Grant, O God, that my heart which was made for you alone, may ever be wholly yours; that free from all undue affection to creatures, it may refer all to you and seek you alone in all things. Yes, my God, I know that you are the center of al hearts, because you are their last end and sovereign good and that they cannot rest until they rest in you. In all things may the most holy, the most just, and the most loveable will of God be done, praised, and exalted above all forever. The Lord has given, and the lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord now and forever. Grant me, therefore, what I ask now; a faithful, sovereign, and constant adherence to you. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 50

L: The mighty one, God the LORD, speaks

**P: Our God comes and does not keep silence**

L: Our God summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting

**P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth**

L: He calls to the heavens above and to the earth

**P: Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me**

L: Hear, O my people, and God will speak

**P: The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge**

L: Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me

**P: To those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Our God Reigns” #268 (vv.1-3)

**How lovely on the mountains**

**Are the feet of him**

**Who brings good news, good news**

**Announcing peace, proclaiming**

**News of happiness**

**Our God reigns; our God reigns**

**Our God reigns**

**Our God reigns**

**Our God reigns**

**Our God reigns**

**He had no stately form**

**He had no majesty**

**That we should be**

**drawn to Him**

**He was despised**

**and we took no account of Him**

**Yet now He reigns**

**With the Most High**

**Our God reigns**

**Our God reigns**

**Our God reigns**

**Our God reigns**

**Out of the tomb He came**

**With grace and majesty**

**He is alive, He is alive**

**God loves us so see here His hands**

**His feet, His side**

**Yes, we know He is alive**

**Our God reigns**

**Our God reigns**

**Our God reigns**

**Our God reigns**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old--and Sarah herself was barren--because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

**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.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 12:32-40

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response****:** “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” #44 (vv.1-3)

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father**

**There is no shadow of turning with Thee**

**Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not**

**As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be**

**Great is Thy faithfulness!**

**Great is Thy faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see**

**All I have needed Thy hand hath provided**

**Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest**

**Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above**

**Join with all nature in manifold witness**

**To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love**

**Great is Thy faithfulness!**

**Great is Thy faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see**

**All I have needed Thy hand hath provided**

**Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,**

**Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide**

**Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow**

**Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

**Great is Thy faithfulness!**

**Great is Thy faithfulness!**

**Morning by morning new mercies I see**

**All I have needed Thy hand hath provided**

**Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek him, 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**

Cambodia:

Rev. Sok Em and his wife, Savy, became Christians while they were living in a refugee camp in Thailand. Sok received Bible training while there. In the late 1980s, the Ems and their three children immigrated to Canada. In 1992 Rev. Em, an ordained member of the Canadian General Conference and supported by the Canadian Free Methodist Church, returned to his village of Prek Thei to begin the work in Cambodia. The Cambodian Free Methodist Church officially began in 1994 as a project of the Asia Pacific Free Methodist Missions Association (APFMMA), with the Hong Kong Free Methodist Church responsible for supervision.

Pray for the goal of planting 21 new house churches in outlaying provinces this year, the three ICCM centers, specifically for the social and spiritual development of children from impoverished areas. Church members also need healing, wisdom, and resources from God to meet their needs along with the spiritual strengthening of pastors.

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Blessed Be the Name” #116 (vv.1-3)

**O for a thousand tongues to sing**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**The glories of my God and King**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Jesus the name that charms our fears**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Tis music in the sinner’s ears**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**He breaks the power of cancelled sin**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**His blood can make the foulest clean**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**\*Benediction**

L: May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you will be rooted and grounded in love. May you be blessed to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.