**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

**February 28, 2021**



*“He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’”*

 *(Mark 8:32-33)*

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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**

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

L: Almighty God invites us to walk with our Lord

**P: How awesome to stand in the presence of our God**

L: The promise of God comes through faith, not by the law

**P: We fall on our face and will follow faithfully**

L: God makes covenant with you, and gives you a new name

**P: We bring praise and glorify the God of life and death**

L: If any wants to follower God, let them deny themselves

**P: We will give up our life for the sake of Christ, and the cause of the gospel**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Lift High the Cross” #237 (vv.1,5)

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaims**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod**

**Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaims**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**For Thy blest cross which doth for all atone**

**Creation’s praises rise before Thy throne**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Creator God, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting. Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity, that the discipline of these forty days may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship, and whet our thirst for the living water you offer. Guide us through this season, that we may not avoid struggle, but open ourselves to blessing, 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**

**Old Testament Scripture Lesson:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.”

 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

 God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: In this season of Lent, when we reexamine our lives and find our faith is tested, we may find a barren wasteland beneath. When we do not turn to God for everything we need, let us pray…

**P: God of our ancestors, we come confessing we seek to please you by human ways. We seek approval and security by accomplishment, not grace. We seek triumphal living, ignoring the pain and grief of this life. We believe suffering and failure make us inadequate for heaven, and separate us from you. In the glory of the cross, your Son embraced the power of death and broke its hold over your people. Teach us to live in that power and spirit. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 22

**P: From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear the Lord. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek God shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; and all the families of the nations shall worship before God. For dominion belongs to the LORD, and God rules over the nations. To God, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before God shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for the Lord. Posterity will serve God; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim the deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that God has done it.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Jesus Calls Us” #541 (vv.1,4)

**Jesus calls us o'er the tumult**

**Of our life's wild, restless sea**

**Day by day his sweet voice soundeth**

**Saying Christian, follow me**

**Jesus calls us; by thy mercies**

**Savior, may we hear thy call**

**Give our hearts to thine obedience**

**Serve and love thee best of all**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** Romans 4:13-25

 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.”

 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

 Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

 Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Mark 8:31-38

 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**Sermon:** “Three Days”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “We've a Story to Tell to the Nations” #698 (vv.1,4)

**We've a story to tell to the nations**

**That shall turn their hearts to the right**

**A story of truth and mercy**

**A story of peace and light**

**A story of peace and light**

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning**

**And the dawning to noonday bright**

**And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth**

**The kingdom of love and light**

**We've a Savior to show to the nations**

**Who the path of sorrow has trod**

**That all of the world's great peoples**

**May come to the truth of God,**

**May come to the truth of God**

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning**

**And the dawning to noonday bright**

**And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth**

**The kingdom of love and light**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Those who seek to save their lives will lose it, but those who sacrifice themselves will be saved. We are invited to give as a show of our faith. May this act of self-sacrifice draw you closer to God, 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**

**\*Hymn:** “Faith of Our Fathers” #639 (vv.1,4)

**Faith of the fathers, living still**

**In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword**

**Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy**

**Whene’er we hear that glorious word**

**Faith of the fathers, holy faith**

**We will be true to thee till death**

**Faith of the fathers, we will love**

**Both friend and foe in all our strife**

**And preach thee, too, as love knows how**

**By saving word and faithful life**

**Faith of the fathers, holy faith**

**We will be true to thee till death**

**\*Benediction**

L: Walk before God and be blameless, setting your mind on heavenly things. Give your life fully to God, and you will receive it in return. Let your faith be a witness, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.