**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

2nd Sunday After Epiphany

January 15, 2023



*“He said to them, ‘Come and see.’" (John 1:39)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: The Holy One is restoring the kingdom

**P: The nations will see God’s vindication**

L: How precious is your steadfast love, O God

**P: All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings**

L: The Lord will give us a new name

**P: We are a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD**

L: We will go out in joy and return in peace

**P: We will flourish in the courts of our God**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “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!**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, you who continually call your people to yourself, draw us by the power of the Holy Spirit into such a warm and binding relationship that we may faithfully follow you all the days of our lives. May your word illuminate our path that Christ may shine in and through our lives. May we continually be a witness of your incarnation, 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**

**Congregational Reading:** 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.**

**Congregational Hymn:** “Love Lifted Me” #395 (vv.1-3)

**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**

**Souls in danger, look above**

**Jesus completely saves**

**He will lift you by his love**

**Out of the angry waves**

**He’s the Master of the sea**

**Billows his will obey**

**He your Savior wants to be**

**Be saved today**

**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**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson:** John 1:35-51

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.”

They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas”(which is translated Peter).

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “In Christ Alone” (vv.1-4)

**In Christ alone my hope is found**

**He is my light, my strength, my song**

**This Cornerstone, this solid Ground**

**Firm through the fiercest drought and storm**

**What heights of love, what depths of peace**

**When fears are stilled, when strivings cease**

**My Comforter, my All in All**

**Here in the love of Christ I stand**

**In Christ alone who took on flesh**

**Fullness of God in helpless babe**

**This gift of love and righteousness**

**Scorned by the ones He came to save**

**Till on that cross as Jesus died**

**The wrath of God was satisfied**

**For every sin on Him was laid**

**Here in the death of Christ I live**

**There in the ground His body lay**

**Light of the world by darkness slain**

**Then bursting forth in glorious Day**

**Up from the grave He rose again**

**And as He stands in victory**

**Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me**

**For I am His and He is mine**

**Bought with the precious blood of Christ**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death**

**This is the power of Christ in me**

**From life’s first cry to final breath**

**Jesus commands my destiny**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man**

**Can ever pluck me from His hand**

**Till He returns or calls me home**

**Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Open your hearts, mind, and vision to the mission that the Spirit leads us on. Give yourselves to that which seems impossible. Trust that God will work, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “He Keeps Me Singing” #349 (vv.1,4-5)

**There’s within my heart a melody**

**Jesus whispers sweet and low**

**Fear not, I am with you, peace, be still**

**In all of life's ebb and flow**

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus**

**Sweetest name I know**

**Fills my every longing**

**Keeps me singing as I go**

**Though sometimes He leads through waters deep**

**Trials fall across the way**

**Though sometimes the path seems rough and steep**

**See His footprints all the way**

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus**

**Sweetest name I know**

**Fills my every longing**

**Keeps me singing as I go**

**Soon He’s coming back to welcome me**

**Far beyond the starry sky**

**I shall wing my flight to worlds unknown**

**I shall reign with Him on high**

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus**

**Sweetest name I know**

**Fills my every longing**

**Keeps me singing as I go**

**\*Benediction**

L: May God be with you and speak through you; May Christ Jesus be one with you and raise you to life; And may the Holy Spirit dwell within you and make you holy. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.