**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

3rd Sunday After Epiphany

January 22, 2023



*“From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’" (Matthew 4:17)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: We are called to gather before the Lord

**P: We bow before the Lord and worship the great God**

L: Day and night the heavens pour out knowledge of God

**P: We see God’s mighty works in creation and in our lives**

L: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul

**P: The commandments of God is clear and enlightening**

L: Loving God and loving our neighbor is a great reward

**P: Let our words and deeds be acceptable to you O Lord**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “O Lord, You’re Beautiful” (vv.1-2)

**Oh Lord, You're beautiful**

**Your face is all I seek**

**For when Your eyes are on this child**

**Your grace abounds to me**

**Oh Lord, please light the fire**

**That once burned bright and clean**

**Replace the lamp of my first love**

**That burns with holy fear**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Give us Grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus the Christ and proclaim to all people the Good news of his kingdom and of his salvation, that the whole world may see and perceive the glory of his marvelous works. Lead us, who know you by faith, to your presence, where we may see y our glory face to face. Grant us illumination, 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.​**

**Congregational Reading:** Psalm 19

**P: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

**Congregational Hymn:** Day by Day” #105 (vv.1-3)

**Day by day and with each passing moment**

**Strength I find to meet my trials here**

**Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment**

**I've no cause for worry or for fear**

**He whose heart is kind beyond all measure**

**Gives unto each day what he deems best**

**Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure**

**Mingling toil with peace and rest**

**Ev’ry day the Lord Himself is near me**

**With a special mercy for each hour**

**All my cares He fain would bear and cheer me**

**He whose name is counselor and pow’r**

**The protection of his child and treasure**

**Is a charge that on Himself He laid**

**As thy days thy strength shall be in measure**

**This the pledge to me he made**

**Help me then in ev'ry tribulation**

**So to trust your promises, O Lord**

**That I lose not faith's sweet consolation**

**Offered me within your holy Word**

**Help me, Lord, when, toil and trouble meeting**

**E'er to take, as from a father's hand**

**One by one, the days, the moments fleeting**

**Till I reach the promised land**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 4:17-23

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “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**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Give your hands to the Lord’s work. Put your feet to the Lord’s path. Give your tongue to speak the Lord’s truth. Give your heart to the love of 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**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “In Christ There is No East or West” #678 (vv.1-4)

**In Christ there is no east or west**

**In him no south or north**

**But one great fellowship of love**

**Throughout the whole wide earth**

**In Christ shall true hearts ev’rywhere**

**Their high communion find**

**His service is the golden cord**

**Close binding all mankind**

**Join hands, then, brothers of the faith**

**Whate’er your race may be**

**Who serves my Father as a son**

**Is surely kin to me**

**In Christ now meet both east and west**

**In him meet south and north.**

**All Christly souls are one in Him**

**Throughout the whole wide earth**

**\*Benediction**

L: Go now, follow where Christ calls you and proclaim the message God gives you. May Christ Jesus give you courage for his mission and passion for his God’s kingdom. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.