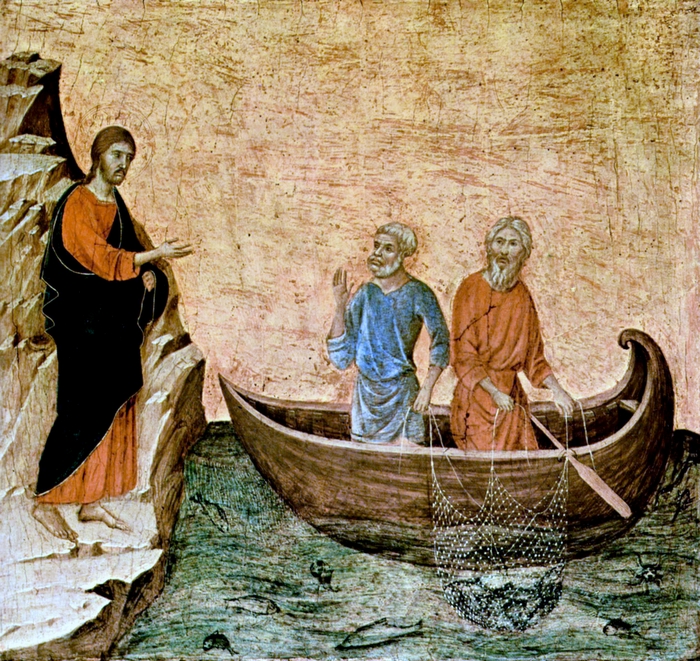
**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Third Sunday After The Epiphany**

**January 31, 2021**



*“As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him.” (Mark 1:16-18)*

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**Third Sunday After The Epiphany**

**January 31, 2021**

*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:     God is calling the people together for a purpose

**P:    We look to God for mission in this life**

L:     God is sending you to proclaim a message to the peoples

**P:    We will go in love and peace, sharing what we’ve been given**

L:     Do not put your confidence in earthly wealth or prosperity

**P:    God is our rock and salvation; we trust in God for all things**

L:     Follow God and be holy as God is holy

**P:    We will be a witness to God’s love and holiness in this world**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Come, We That Love the Lord” #18 (vv.1,3,5)

**Come, we that love the Lord**

**And let our joys be known**

**Join in a song with sweet accord**

**And thus, surround the throne**

**The men of grace have found**

**Glory begun below**

**Celestial fruit on earthly ground**

**From faith and hope may grow**

**Then let our songs abound**

**And every tear be dry**

**We’re marching thro’ Immanuel’s ground**

**To fairer worlds on high**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O God, you spoke your word and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ. Fill all creation with that word again, so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples, we may become one living body, your incarnate presence on the earth. Let those around us see our passion for you and follow, as we pray together 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:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!”

And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: The present form of this world is passing away, and God has been warning us since the beginning. Sometimes we ignore the warnings we find unpleasant. Sometimes we push away warnings against things we deeply believe. Let us acknowledge our reluctance to understand…

**P: Sovereign God, You call us to go and share the good news with the world, yet we often resist loving our enemies. We participate in worldly allegiances and let their understandings dictate our mission. You nudge us towards a greater vision of this world, yet we lament the change it takes. When we do wrong, we resist fasting and being sorrowful. This world is passing away, and You are redeeming those we perceive as wrong. Help us to be hindered by earthly things, but be swept up in following you. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 62

**P: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from God. God alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God. Trust in God at all times, O people; pour out your heart before God; God is a refuge for us. Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them. Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Grace Greater than our Sin” #84 (vv.1,3)

**Marvelous grace of our loving Lord**

**Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt**

**Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured**

**There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt**

**Grace, grace, God's grace**

**Grace that will pardon and cleanse within**

**Grace, grace, God's grace**

**Grace that is greater than all our sin**

**Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace**

**Freely bestowed on all who believe**

**You that are longing to see his face**

**Will you this moment his grace receive?**

**Grace, grace, God's grace**

**Grace that will pardon and cleanse within**

**Grace, grace, God's grace**

**Grace that is greater than all our sin**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Mark 1:14-20

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”

And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “O Jesus, I Have Promised” Handout (vv.1,3)

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end**

**Be Thou forever near me, my master and my friend**

**I shall not fear the battle if Thou are by my side**

**Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide**

**O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee**

**That where Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be**

**And Jesus I have promised to serve Thee to the end**

**O give me grace to follow my master and my friend**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:God has called us, and we have responded. When we give our lives to Jesus, we hold nothing back. We give of our time, treasures, and talents. Give to strengthen Christ’s healing presence in your and the world’s lives, 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:** “Lead On, O King Eternal” #641 (vv.2,3)

**Lead on, O King Eternal, till sin’s fierce war shall cease**

**And holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace**

**For not with swords’ loud clashing nor roll of stirring drums**

**With deeds of love and mercy the heav’nly kingdom comes**

**Lead on, O King Eternal we follow not with fears**

**For gladness breaks like morning wher-e’er Thy face appears**

**Thy cross is lifted o’er us we journey in its light**

**Thy crown awaits the conquest lead on, O God of might**

**\*Benediction**

L: Our lives are just a flash in history, fleeting in the winds of change. But we can bring salvation and restoration, when we devote our whole lives to God’s mission. Dedicate your heart, soul, mind, and strength to God’s kingdom, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.