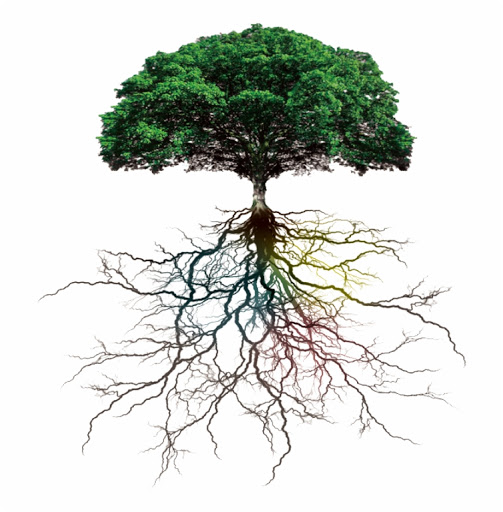
**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 12, 2020**



*“’But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’” (Matthew 13:23)*

Minister: Rev. Jason Evans

First Free Methodist Church

2625 N. Center Rd.

Saginaw, Michigan 48603

Phone: (989) 799-2930

Email: saginawfmc@gmail.com

[www.saginawfirstfmc.org](http://www.saginawfirstfmc.org)

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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**

L: We are here in the presence of God

**P: Stripped of pride and a false sense of our own importance**

L: God has called us to be still and quiet

**P: To sense the comfort of and satisfaction of the Spirit**

L: Let us put our hope in the Lord our God

**P: This day and forevermore**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Come, Ye Thankful People Come” #765 (vv.1,4)

**Come, ye thankful people, come**

**Raise the song of harvest home**

**All is safely gathered in**

**Ere the winter storms begin**

**God our Maker doth provide**

**For our wants to be supplied**

**Come to God's own temple, come**

**Raise the song of harvest home**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come**

**To Thy final harvest home**

**Gather Thou Thy people in**

**Free from sorrow, free from sin**

**There, forever purified**

**In Thy presence to abide**

**Come, with all thine angels, come**

**Raise the glorious harvest home**

**Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: God who is above all other gods, we are grateful for the revelation of salvation you have shown us through the witness of Christ Jesus. By the scriptures we see your goodness through Christ’s actions and teachings. Help us appreciate our birthright in your kingdom. Teach us to discern the Scriptures, 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.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham’s son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.

The children struggled together within her; and she said, “If it is to be this way, why do I live?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.”

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!” (Therefore he was called Edom.)

Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.”

Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?”

Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Our cares for the things of this world sap our energy. Our thirst for more depresses our spirit and satisfies for only a short time. Let us confess to be freed from errors…

**P: All knowing God, you understand the cares of this life that weigh us down. Our thoughts and actions are often shortsighted. We take much for granted, not realizing the privileges we possess. We fail to see and care how our lives matter and affect others. We believe our baptism or our conversion is all that’s needed to be a citizen of Heaven. If we say, “Christ, Christ,” all is well. Remind us of your call to an active faith, that acts for the benefit of the whole world, not just our own self-interest. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 119

**P: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word. Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances. I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.**

**\*Hymn of Affirmation: “**Hallelujah! What a Savior!” #253 (vv.1,3,5)

**Man of sorrows what a name**

**For the Son of God, who came**

**Ruined sinners to reclaim**

**Hallelujah, what a Savior**

**Guilty, vile, and helpless we**

**Spot-less Lamb of God was He**

**Full atonement, can it be?**

**Hallelujah, what a Savior**

**When he comes, our glorious King**

**All his ransomed home to bring**

**Then anew this song we'll sing**

**Hallelujah, what a Savior**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** Romans 8:1-11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law--indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

**Special Music:** Micki Martin

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.

Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “My Savior’s Love” #224 (vv.1,4)

**I stand amazed in the presence**

**Of Jesus, the Nazarene**

**And wonder how he could love me**

**A sinner, condemned, unclean**

**How marvelous, how wonderful**

**And my song shall ever be**

**How marvelous, how wonderful**

**Is my Savior’s love for me**

**He took my sins and my sorrows**

**He made them his very own**

**He bore the burden to Calvary**

**And suffered and died alone**

**How marvelous, how wonderful**

**And my song shall ever be**

**How marvelous, how wonderful**

**Is my Savior’s love for me**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: The Word has been sown among us. The harvest depends on our environment. Let our offering be a sign of our soil, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Prayer**

**Closing Hymn**: “Since Jesus Came into My Heart” #420 (vv.1,3)

**What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought**

**Since Jesus came into my heart!**

**I have light in my soul for which long I had sought**

**Since Jesus came into my heart!**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure**

**Since Jesus came into my heart!**

**And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure Since Jesus came into my heart!**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**Benediction**

L: God’s Word lights our path and guides our feet. Let us set our minds on matters of the Spirit. Pass on the joy of the living Spirit, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.