**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

**June 20, 2021**



*“He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’”*

*(Mark 4:39-40)*

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**PROPER 7 (12)**

**June 20, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Come! All who are weary and burdened

**P: Today is the day of salvation**

L: The love of God is here to give you rest

**P: We open our hearts to the Holy Spirit**

L: God cares about everyone, wanting none to perish

**P: We will act and give a helping hand to all in need**

L: We trust in God to work good, for God’s kingdom

**P: Through us, by grace, as ministers of God’s love**

**\*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!**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Creator God, you call us to love and serve you with body, mind, and spirit through loving your creation and our sisters and brothers. Open our hearts in compassion and receive the petitions on behalf of the needs of the church and the world. May we bear witness to the only begotten Son, 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:** 1 Samuel 17:19-23, 32-49

Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, took the provisions, and went as Jesse had commanded him. He came to the encampment as the army was going forth to the battle line, shouting the war cry.

Israel and the Philistines drew up for battle, army against army. David left the things in charge of the keeper of the baggage, ran to the ranks, and went and greeted his brothers. As he talked with them, the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, came up out of the ranks of the Philistines, and spoke the same words as before. And David heard him.

David said to Saul, “Let no one’s heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.”

Saul said to David, “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth.”

But David said to Saul, “Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.”

David said, “The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine.” So Saul said to David, “Go, and may the LORD be with you!”

Saul clothed David with his armor; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul's sword over the armor, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, “I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them.”

So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine. The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance.

The Philistine said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.”

But David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand.”

When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: There’s lot in this world that brings fear to humanity. Death, physical and spiritual, causes us to tremble. Surrender to God’s grace so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P:** **God who comes to us when we are in our greatest fear, thank you that on the cross you cried "It is finished." You have done it, forgiveness is complete, and I can live forever in Your grace and forever in Your love. We resolve in our hearts, that with Your strength I determine not to make these errors again. I receive Your forgiveness, and by the power of Your Holy Spirit I walk away from everything I know to be wrong. I embrace everything I know about You, for the kingdom, the power and the glory are always and forever Yours. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 9

**P: The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you. Declare God’s deeds among the peoples. For the one who avenges is mindful of them; the Lord does not forget the cry of the afflicted. Be gracious to me, O LORD. See what I suffer from those who hate me; you are the one who lifts me up from the gates of death, so that I may recount all your praises, and, in the gates of daughter Zion, rejoice in your deliverance. For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “As the Deer” (vv.1-3)

**As the deer panteth for the water**

**So my soul longeth after you**

**You are all that my heart desire**

**And I long to worship You**

**You alone my strength my shield**

**To you alone that my spirit yield**

**You alone that my heart desire**

**And I long to worship You**

**I want you more than gold or silver**

**Only you can satisfy**

**You alone are the real joy giver**

**And the apple of my eye**

**You alone my strength my shield**

**To you alone that my spirit yield**

**You alone that my heart desire**

**And I long to worship You**

**You're my friend and You are my brother**

**Even though you are a King**

**I love you more than any other**

**So much more than anything**

**You alone are my strength my shield**

**To You alone be my spirit yield**

**You alone that my heart desire**

**And I long to worship Thee**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see--we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return--I speak as to children--open wide your hearts also.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.”

And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.

He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?”

And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Be Still, My Soul” #97 (vv.1-3)

**Be still, my soul, The Lord is on thy side**

**Bear patiently, the cross of grief or pain**

**Leave to thy God, to order and provide**

**In every change, He faithful will remain**

**Be still, my soul, thy best thy heavenly friend**

**Through thorny ways, leads to a joyful end**

**Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake**

**To guide the future as He has the past**

**Thy hope, thy confidence, let nothing shake**

**All now mysterious shall be bright at last**

**Be still, my soul, the waves and wind still know**

**His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below**

**Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on**

**When we shall be forever with the Lord**

**When disappointment, grief and fear are gone**

**Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored**

**Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past**

**All safe and blessed, we shall meet at last**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the dew which falls on the earth and nourishes. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore. Give as faith, 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**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Count Your Blessings” #771 (vv.1,3-4)

**When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed**

**When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost**

**Count your many blessings, name them one by one**

**And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done**

**Count your blessings, name them one by one**

**Count your blessings, see what God hath done**

**Count your blessings, name them one by one**

**Count your many blessings, see what God hath done**

**When you look at others with their lands and gold,**

**Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold**

**Count your many blessings, money cannot buy**

**Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high**

**Count your blessings, name them one by one**

**Count your blessings, see what God hath done**

**Count your blessings, name them one by one**

**Count your many blessings, see what God hath done**

**So, amid the conflict, whether great or small**

**Do not be discouraged, God is over all**

**Count your many blessings, angels will attend**

**Help and comfort give you to your journey's end**

**Count your blessings, name them one by one**

**Count your blessings, see what God hath done**

**Count your blessings, name them one by one**

**Count your many blessings, see what God hath done**

**\*Benediction**

L: The Spirit of the Lord is with you, empowering you for ministry. Your work is not in vain as you serve with love for God and your neighbor. There is no restriction in your affections, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.