**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 12, 2023**



*“A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’"*

*(John 4:7)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: O come, let us sing to the LORD

**P: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation**

L: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving

**P: For the LORD is a great God**

L: Let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise

**P: He is a great King above all gods**

L: For he is our God

**P: And we are the people of his pasture**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” #115 (vv.1-3)

**Come, Christians, join to sing**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Loud praise to Christ our King**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Let all, with heart and voice**

**Before his throne rejoice**

**Praise is his gracious choice**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Come, lift your hearts on high**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Let praises fill the sky**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**He is our guide and friend**

**To us he'll condescend**

**His love shall never end**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Praise yet our Christ again**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Life shall not end the strain**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**On heaven’s blissful shore**

**His goodness we’ll adore**

**Singing forevermore**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, who sees that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body. Keep us safe from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul. By the Holy Spirit, tend to us that we may bear fruit according to your will., 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.​**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “And Can It Be” #225 (vv.1-4)

**And can it be that I should gain**

**An int'rest in the Savior's blood**

**Died He for me, who caused His pain**

**For me, who Him to death pursued**

**Amazing love! how can it be**

**That Thou, my God, should die for me**

**Amazing love! how can it be**

**That Thou, my God, should die for me**

**He left His Father's throne above**

**So free, so infinite His grace**

**Emptied Himself of all but love**

**And bled for Adam's helpless race**

**'Tis mercy all, immense and free**

**For, O my God, it found out me**

**Amazing love! how can it be**

**That Thou, my God, should die for me**

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay**

**Fast bound in sin and nature's night**

**Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray**

**I woke, the dungeon flamed with light**

**My chains fell off, my heart was free**

**I rose, went forth and followed Thee**

**My chains fell off, my heart was free**

**I rose, went forth and followed Thee**

**No condemnation now I dread**

**Jesus, and all in Him is mine**

**Alive in Him, my living Head**

**And clothed in righteousness divine**

**Bold I approach th’eternal throne**

**And claim the crown, through Christ my own**

**Bold I approach th’eternal throne**

**And claim the crown, through Christ my own**

**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.**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 4:19-29

The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”

 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

 The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”

 Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you”

 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”

 Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response****:** “Fill My Cup, Lord” #458 (vv.1-3)

**Like the woman at the well, I was seeking**

**For things that could not satisfy**

**And then I heard my Savior speaking**

**Draw from My well that never shall run dry**

**Fill my cup, Lord I lift it up Lord**

**Come and quench this thirsting of my soul**

**Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more**

**Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole**

**There are millions in this world who are craving**

**The pleasures earthly things afford**

**But none can match the wondrous treasure**

**That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord**

**Fill my cup, Lord I lift it up Lord**

**Come and quench this thirsting of my soul**

**Bread of Heaven feed me til I want no more**

**Fill my cup; fill it up and make me whole**

**So, my brother, if the things this world gave you**

**Leave hungers that won’t pass away**

**My blessed Lord will come and save you**

**If you kneel to Him and humbly pray**

**Fill my cup, Lord I lift it up Lord**

**Come and quench this thirsting of my soul**

**Bread of Heaven feed me til I want no more**

**Fill my cup; fill it up and make me whole**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Give that which is perishable for that which is imperishable, 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**: “The Potter’s Hand” (vv.1-2)

**Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior**

**I know for sure all of my days are held in Your hand**

**And crafted into Your perfect plan**

**I’m captured by Your Holy calling**

**Set me apart, I know You’re drawing me to Yourself**

**Lead me Lord, I pray**

**Take me and mold me, use me, fill me**

**I give my life to the Potter’s hand**

**Call me, You guide me, lead me, walk beside me**

**I give my life to the Potter’s hand**

**You gently call me into Your presence**

**Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit**

**Teach me dear Lord, to live all of my life**

**Through Your eyes**

**I'm captured by Your Holy calling**

**Set me apart, I know You're drawing me to Yourself**

**Lead me Lord, I pray**

**Take me and mold me, use me, fill me**

**I give my life to the Potter’s hand**

**Call me, You guide me, lead me, walk beside me**

**I give my life to the Potter’s hand**

**\*Benediction**

L: Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. We have been filled with the Spirit, united as God’s people. Be strengthened by the spirit inside you. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.