**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

**March 13, 2022**



*“See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"*

*(Luke 13:35)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: The Lord our God has done many wonderful things for us

**P: God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever**

L: Seek the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul

**P: I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart**

L: Judgment will again be founded on righteousness

**P: All the upright in heart will glory in him**

L: A person may think their own ways are right

**P: But the wise in heart keeps God’s commandments**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “In the Cross of Christ, I Glory” #234 (vv.1-4)

**In the cross of Christ I glory**

**Towering o’er the wrecks of time**

**All the light of sacred story**

**Gathers round its head sublime**

**When the woes of life o’ertake me**

**Hopes deceive, and fears annoy**

**Never shall the cross forsake me**

**Lo! it glows with peace and joy**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming**

**Light and love upon my way**

**From the cross the radiance streaming**

**Adds more luster to the day**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure**

**By the cross are sanctified**

**Peace is there that knows no measure**

**Joys that through all time abide**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from thy ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of thy word, Jesus Christ thy Son. We thank you for your witness, and pray that we may be firmly grounded in its truth. Gather us, 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.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”

 But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

 And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”

 But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”

 He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”

 And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”

 But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”

 He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”

 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates....”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: We confess to the Lord so we are reminded of that which is heavenly and that which is earthly. While all things around us pass away, we may hold fast those things which abide forever. May our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified...

**P: Good Lord, give me the grace, in all my fear and agony, to have recourse to that great fear and wonderful agony that Thou, my sweet Savior, had. Take from me all vainglorious minds, all appetites of mine own praise, all envy, covets, glutton, sloth, all wrathful affections, all appetite of revenging, all desires or delight of other folks’ harm, all pleasure in provoking any person to wrath and anger or taking delight in any other being insulted or experiencing calamity. Give me a humble, lowly, quiet, peaceable, patient, charitable, kind, tender, and pitiful mind, with all works and words and thoughts. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 27

**P:** **The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “I Will Sing of My Redeemer” #130 (vv.1-4)

**I will sing of my Redeemer**

**And his wondrous love to me**

**On the cruel cross he suffered**

**From the curse to set me free**

**Sing, O sing of my Redeemer**

**With his blood he purchased me**

**On the cross he sealed my pardon**

**Paid the debt, and made me free**

**I will tell the wondrous story**

**How my lost estate to save**

**In His boundless love and mercy**

**He the ransom freely gave**

**Sing, O sing of my Redeemer**

**With his blood he purchased me**

**On the cross he sealed my pardon**

**Paid the debt, and made me free**

**I will praise my dear Redeemer**

**His triumphant power I’ll tell**

**How the victory He giveth**

**Over sin and death and hell**

**Sing, O sing of my Redeemer**

**With his blood he purchased me**

**On the cross he sealed my pardon**

**Paid the debt, and made me free**

**I will sing of my Redeemer**

**And his heavenly love for me**

**He from death to life has brought me**

**Son of God, with him to be**

**Sing, O sing of my Redeemer**

**With his blood he purchased me**

**On the cross he sealed my pardon**

**Paid the debt, and made me free**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Philippians 3:17-4:1

 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.

 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson****:** Luke 13:31-35

 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.”

 He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’

 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

**Sermon:** “”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response****:** “Be Thou My Vision” #460 (vv.1-4)

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart**

**Naught be all else to me, save that thou art**

**Thou my best thought, by day or by night**

**Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light**

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word**

**I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord**

**Thou my great Father, and I thy true son**

**Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise**

**Thou mine inheritance, now and always**

**Thou and thou only first in my heart**

**High King of heaven, my treasure thou art**

**High King of heaven, my victory won**

**May I reach heaven’s joys, bright morning sun**

**Heart of my own heart, whatever befall**

**Still be my vision, O ruler of all**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:God assures us comfort and provision in the Kingdom. As we are called to be fruitful servants within creation, we offer our lives and our hope of the world to come. Give for this vision, 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**: “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!**

**\*Benediction**

L: Be embraced by the Source of life. Be inspired by the Source of hope. Be sustained by the Source of grace. Be blessed by the Source of truth. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.