**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Fifth Sunday Of Easter**

**May 10, 2020**



*“Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’” (John 14:5-7)*

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**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 10, 2020**

**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: Come to the living stone, rejected by mortals yet chosen of God

**P: We come to the rock, who is a refuge in times of trouble**

L: Let your hearts not be troubled, believe in God, believe Christ Jesus

**P: The stone the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone**

L: Jesus is the way, and the truth, and the life

**P: We will follow Christ Jesus into new life**

L: The one who believes in Christ will also do the works that Christ did

**P: May we do even greater works**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “We All Believe in One True God”

**We all believe in one true God**

**Who created earth and heaven**

**The Father, who to us in love**

**Has the right of children given**

**He both soul and body feeds us**

**All we need His does provides us**

**He through snares and perils leads us**

**Watching that no harm betide us**

**He cares for us by day and night**

**All things are governed by His might**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ**

**His own Son, our Lord, possessing**

**An equal Godhead, throne, and might**

**Source of ev'ry grace and blessing**

**Born of Mary, virgin mother**

**By the power of the Spirit**

**Made true man, our elder brother**

**That the lost might life inherit**

**Was crucified for sinful man**

**And raised by God to life again**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost**

**Who sweet grace and comfort giveth**

**And with the Father and the Son**

**In eternal glory liveth**

**Who the Church, His own creation**

**Keeps in unity of spirit**

**Here forgiveness and salvation**

**Daily come through Jesus' merit**

**All flesh shall rise, and we shall be**

**In bliss with God eternally**

**Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Creator God, you’ve opened heaven up to us. Shepherd us to paths that lead into your salvation. Lord, prepare us to be a sanctuary, built on your foundation. Help us to turn rocks and weapons into tools that grow and build your kingdom. Reveal to us Your way, truth, and life, 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**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

 But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

 Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: God calls us to peace. But at times we use the resources of God’s world for war and destruction. We judge and execute by our own opinions. For our times of irresponsibility, let us confess…

**P: God of Peace, we are a people of violence. We destroy your creation, we persecute unjustly, we make excuse to perpetrate crimes against our fellow humans. We isolate ourselves from those who suffer. We protect our assets and our comfort at all costs. We deny help to the poor, needy, and oppressed. We say we follow Christ, yet reject the way, the truth, and life. Deliver us from our self-righteousness, and our pride. Guide us to repentance and deliver us from our complicities. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 31

**P: In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God. My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors. Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.**

**\*Hymn of Affirmation: “**Rise Up, O Church of God”

**Rise up, O church of God**

**Have done with lesser things**

**Give heart and soul and mind and strength**

**To serve the King of kings**

**Rise up, O church of God**

**From vain ambitions turn**

**Christ rose triumphant that your hearts**

**With nobler zeal might burn**

**Rise up, O church of God**

**His kingdom’s task embrace**

**Redress sin’s cruel consequences**

**Give justice larger place**

**Lift high the cross of Christ**

**Tread where His feet have trod**

**As followers of the Son of Man**

**Rise up, O church of God**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** 1 Peter 2:2-10

 Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

 For it stands in scripture, “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

 To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**Special Music:** Micki Martin

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 14:1-14

 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Stand Up and Bless the Lord”

**Stand up, and bless the Lord**

**Ye people of His choice**

**Stand up, and bless the Lord your God**

**With heart, and soul, and voice**

**O for the living flame**

**From His own altar brought**

**To touch our lips, our mind inspire**

**And wing to heav'n our thought**

**God is our strength and song**

**And His salvation ours**

**Then be His love in Christ proclaimed**

**With all our ransomed pow'rs**

**Stand up and bless the Lord**

**The Lord your God adore**

**Stand up, and bless His glorious Name**

**Henceforth for evermore**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: God in Christ is the way, truth and life. No one comes to the Almighty except by the paths of Christ. Gold, silver, and the riches of this world only hinder us. Share what God’s entrusted you with in joy, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Prayer**

**Closing Hymn**: “Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

**‘Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus**

**Just to take Him at His word**

**Just to rest upon His promise**

**Just to know, “Thus Saith the Lord”**

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him**

**How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er**

**Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus**

**O for grace, to trust Him more**

**I’m so glad I learned to trust Thee**

**Precious Jesus, savior, friend**

**And I know that thou are with me**

**Wilt be with me to the end**

**Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him**

**How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er**

**Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus**

**O for grace, to trust Him more**

**Benediction**

L: Christ is the pathway to truth and life. The Spirit shepherds us by the light of Christ on our way. You are Christ’s disciple, draw all people to this path with love and compassion, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.