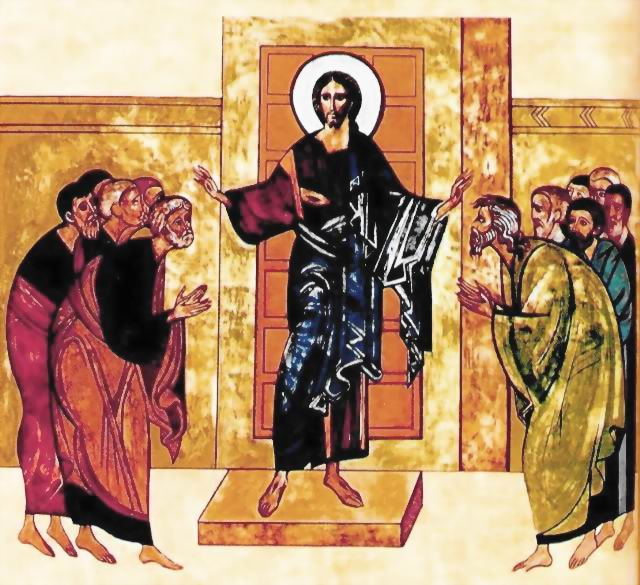
**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023



*“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you...”*

*(John 15:16)*

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**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 7, 2023**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth

**P: My life is yours**

L: In due time, God gave a son to reconcile all things

**P: My hope is in you alone**

L: The glory of God is the light of the world

**P: The heartbeat of my life is to worship in Your light**

L: I fall onto my knees in awe

**P: Cause Your glory is so beautiful**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Blessed Be the Name” #116 (vv.1-3)

**O for a thousand tongues to sing**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**The glories of my God and King**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Jesus the name that charms our fears**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Tis music in the sinner’s ears**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**He breaks the power of cancelled sin**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**His blood can make the foulest clean**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Blessed be the name! Blessed be the name!**

**Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things that surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire. May our hearts and minds be acceptable to you, 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:** “How He Loves”

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 8

**P: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth! Thou whose glory above the heavens is chanted by the mouth of babes and infants, thou hast founded a bulwark because of thy foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast established; what is man that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man that thou dost care for him? Yet thou hast made him little less than God, and dost crown him with glory and honor. Thou hast given him dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet… O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!**

**Special Music:** Laina Erickson

**Communion**

**MINISTER: THE INVITATION**

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who live in love and peace with

your neighbors and who intend to lead a new life, following the commandments

of God and walking in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy

sacrament to your comfort; and humbly kneeling, make your honest confession

to Almighty God.

**IN UNISON: THE GENERAL CONFESSION**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all

people, we confess that we have sinned, and we are deeply grieved as we

remember the wickedness of our past lives. We have sinned against You, Your

holiness and Your love, and we deserve only Your indignation and anger.

We sincerely repent, and we are genuinely sorry for all wrongdoing and every

failure to do the things we should. Our hearts are grieved, and we acknowledge

that we are hopeless without Your grace.

Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your son, our Savior, Jesus

Christ, who died for us.

Forgive us.

Cleanse us.

Give us strength to serve and please You in newness of life and to honor and praise

Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

O Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who with great mercy has promised

forgiveness to all who turn to You with hearty repentance and true faith, have

mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from our sins, make us strong and faithful in

all goodness and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CONGREGATION: THE COLLECT**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom

no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE SANCTUS**

It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times and

in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we

honor and adore Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying,

**CONGREGATION: THE SANCTUS (CONTINUED)**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord, most high. Amen

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

We do not come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, with self-confidence and

pride, trusting in our own righteousness, but we trust in Your great and many

mercies. We are not worthy to gather the crumbs from under Your table. But You,

O Lord, are unchanging in Your mercy and Your nature is love; grant us, therefore,

God of mercy, God of grace, so to eat at this Your table that we may receive in

spirit and in truth the body of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and the merits of His

shed blood, so that we may live and grow in His likeness and, being washed and

cleansed through His most precious blood, we may evermore live in Him and He

in us. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who gave in love Your only Son, Jesus Christ,

to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who by His sacrifice, offered

once for all, did provide a full, perfect, and sufficient atonement for the sins of the whole world,

we come now to Your table in obedience to Your Son, Jesus Christ, who in His holy gospel

commanded us to continue a perpetual memory of His precious death until He comes

again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we humbly ask, and grant that we, receiving this bread and this cup,

as He commanded and in the memory of His passion and death, may partake of His most blessed body and blood.

In the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

His disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In like manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of

this, all of you, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of

sins; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” Amen.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting

life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed upon Him in your heart, by faith with

thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life.

Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s blood was shed for you and be thankful.

**MINISTER: THE BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love

of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Spirit, be yours now and forever. Amen.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 15:9-16

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “His Eye Is on the Sparrow” #103 (vv.1-3)

**Why should I feel discouraged**

**Why should the shadows come**

**Why should my heart be lonely**

**And long for heav’n and home**

**When Jesus is my portion**

**My constant Friend is he**

**His eye is on the sparrow**

**And I know he watches me**

**His eye is on the sparrow**

**And I know he watches me**

**I sing because I’m happy**

**I sing because I’m free**

**For his eye is on the sparrow**

**And I know he watches me**

**Let not your heart be troubled**

**His tender word I hear**

**And resting on his goodness**

**I lose my doubts and fears**

**Though by the path he leadeth**

**But one step I may see**

**His eye is on the sparrow**

**And I know he watches me**

**His eye is on the sparrow**

**And I know he watches me**

**I sing because I’m happy**

**I sing because I’m free**

**For his eye is on the sparrow**

**And I know he watches me**

**Whenever I am tempted**

**Whenever clouds arise**

**When songs give place to sighing**

**When hope within me dies**

**I draw the closer to him**

**From care he sets me free**

**His eye is on the sparrow**

**And I know he watches me**

**His eye is on the sparrow**

**And I know he watches me**

**I sing because I’m happy**

**I sing because I’m free**

**For his eye is on the sparrow**

**And I know he watches me**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: May the tribute of our humble ministry be pleasing to the Holy Trinity. Through God’s grace may it further redemption in this world. With prayer make your offering, 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:** “To God Be the Glory” #36 (vv.1-3)

**To God be the glory, great things he hath done!**

**So loved he the world that he gave us his Son**

**Who yielded his life an atonement for sin**

**And opened the life-gate that all may go in**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the earth hear his voice**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the people rejoice**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son**

**And give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,**

**To every believer the promise of God;**

**The vilest offender who truly believes,**

**That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the earth hear his voice**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the people rejoice**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son**

**And give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**Great things he hath taught us**

**Great things he hath done**

**And great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son**

**But purer, and higher, and greater will be**

**Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the earth hear his voice**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the people rejoice**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son**

**And give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**\*Benediction**

L: Almighty God has invited us into the sweet life of redemption in Christ Jesus. Therefore, may the soul of Christ make you holy. May the body of Christ be your salvation. May the mind of Christ be in you at all times and in all manners, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.