**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 9, 2021**



*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.”*

 *(John 15:12-13)*

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*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! All who are born of God

**P: We abide in the love revealed in Christ Jesus**

L: For the love of God is this, that we obey God’s commands

**P: And God’s commands are not burdensome**

L: Whatever is born of God, conquers the world

**P: Death gives way to victory**

L: No one has greater love than this

**P: To lay one’s life down for one’s friends**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “All Creatures of Our God and King” #77 (vv.1-2,4-5)

**All creatures of our God and King**

**Lift up your voice and with us sing**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Thou burning sun with golden beam**

**Thou silver moon with softer gleam**

**O praise him, O praise him**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong**

**Ye clouds that sail in heav'n along**

**O praise him, Alleluia!**

**Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice**

**Ye lights of evening, find a voice**

**O praise him, O praise him**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**And all ye men of tender heart**

**Forgiving others, take your part**

**O sing ye, Alleluia!**

**Ye who long pain and sorrow bear**

**Praise God and on Him cast your care**

**O praise him, O praise him**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless**

**And worship him in humbleness**

**O praise him, Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son**

**And praise the Spirit, three in one**

**O praise him, O praise him**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We look for your Spirit to guide us in all righteousness as we abide in the risen Son. May joy be restored in our hearts as we obey your commands. Teach us to lay our lives down for one another, 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:** Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”

So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Sometimes our pretenses lead us to false understandings. Our standards become conflated with opinion. Let us affirm our commitment to loving God and one another…

**P: I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy universal and apostolic church; I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 98

**P:** **O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Blessed Assurance” #442 (vv.1-3)

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine**

**Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine**

**Heir of salvation, purchase of God**

**Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Perfect submission, perfect delight**

**Visions of rapture now burst on my sight**

**Angels descending, bring from above**

**Echoes of mercy, whispers of love**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Perfect submission, all is at rest**

**I in my Savior am happy and blest**

**Watching and waiting, looking above**

**Filled with His goodness, lost in His love**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**This is my story, this is my song**

**Praising my Savior all the day long**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** 1 John 5:1-6

 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments.

And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 15:9-17

 “As the Father has loved me, so I have 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. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

“You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

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

**Come, Christians, join to sing**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Loud praises to Christ, our King**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Let all with heart and voice**

**Before His throne rejoice**

**Praise in 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 forever evermore**

**Alleluia! Amen!**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the Lord God Almighty will be with you. Live in accordance with God’s righteous and loving acts, 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**

**\*Hymn**: “Make Me a Blessing” #533 (vv.1-3)

**Out in the highways and byways of life**

**Many are weary and sad**

**Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife**

**Making the sorrowing glad**

**Make me a blessing, make me a blessing**

**Out of my life, May Jesus shine**

**Make me a blessing, O savior I pray**

**Make me a blessing to someone today**

**Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love**

**Tell of His pow'r to forgive**

**Others will trust Him if only you prove**

**True ev'ry moment you live**

**Make me a blessing, make me a blessing**

**Out of my life, May Jesus shine**

**Make me a blessing, O savior I pray**

**Make me a blessing to someone today**

**Give as 'twas given to you in your need**

**Love as the Master loved you**

**Be to the helpless a helper indeed**

**Unto your mission be true**

**Make me a blessing, make me a blessing**

**Out of my life, May Jesus shine**

**Make me a blessing, O savior I pray**

**Make me a blessing to someone today**

**\*Benediction**

L: By the grace given me, I say to every one of you: Be devoted to one another in Christlike love. Honor one another above yourself. Share with God’s people who are in need and live in harmony with each other, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.