**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Reign of Christ**

**November 20, 2022**



*“There was also an inscription over him, ‘This is the King of the Jews.’"*

*(Luke 23:38)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L:    Blessed be the Lord God, He has raised up a mighty savior

**P:    He has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them**

L:    He spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets of old

**P:    He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors**

L:    And has remembered his holy covenant

**P:    Being rescued from the hands of our enemies**

L:    We might serve him without fear

**P:    In holiness and righteousness before him all our days**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” #59 (vv.1-3,5)

**Rejoice, ye pure in heart**

**Rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**Your festal banner wave on high**

**The cross of Christ your King**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**With all the angel choirs**

**With all the saints on earth**

**Pour out the strains of joy and bliss**

**True rapture, noblest mirth!**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**Yes, on thro’ life’s long path**

**Still chanting as ye go**

**From youth to age, by night and day**

**In gladness and in woe**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

**Praise God, who reigns on high**

**The Lord whom we adore**

**The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost**

**One God forevermore**

**Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Most High God, majestic and almighty, our beginning and our end: rule in our hearts and guide us to be faithful in our daily actions, worshiping the one who comes as Savior and Sovereign, and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God. Restore all things by the salvific work of your well-beloved son, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Grant the people of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together by his most gracious rule; that we may all live and reign with You, Holy Trinity, evermore, 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:** Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD.

Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: All mighty God, who strengthened the apostle’s faith through the resurrection and ascension of the Son, brings us all together in his glory. Live by grace, so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**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.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 46

**P: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. “Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “The Church’s One Foundation” #668 (vv1-4)

**The church's one foundation**

**Is Jesus Christ, her Lord**

**She is his new creation**

**By water and the Word**

**From heav’n he came and sought her**

**To be his holy bride**

**With His own blood He bought her**

**And for her life He died**

**Elect from ev’ry nation**

**Yet one o'er all the earth**

**Her charter of salvation**

**One Lord, one faith, one birth**

**One holy name she blesses**

**Partakes one holy food**

**And to one hope she presses**

**With ev’ry grace endued**

**‘Mid toil and tribulation**

**And tumult of her war**

**She waits the consummation**

**Of peace forevermore**

**Till with the vision glorious**

**Her longing eyes are blest**

**And the great church victorious**

**Shall be the church at rest**

**Yet she on earth hath union**

**With the God the Three in One**

**And mystic sweet communion**

**With those whose rest is won**

**O happy ones and holy**

**Lord, give us grace that we**

**Like them, the meek and lowly**

**On high may dwell with thee**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** Colossians 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers--all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Luke 23:33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

**Sermon:** “”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “All Glory, Laud, and Honor” #215 (vv.1-3)

**All glory, laud, and honor to**

**Thee, Redeemer, King**

**To whom the lips of children**

**Made sweet hosannas ring**

**Thou art the King of Israel**

**Thou David’s royal Son**

**Ho in the Lord’s name comest**

**The King and Blessed One**

**The company of angels**

**Are praising Thee on high**

**And mortal men and all things**

**Created make reply**

**The people of the Hebrew**

**With palms before Thee went**

**Our praise and prayer and anthems**

**Before Thee we present**

**To Thee, before Thy passion**

**They sang their hymns of praise**

**To Thee, now high exalted**

**Our melody we raise**

**Thou didst accept their praises**

**Accept the praise we bring**

**Who in all good delightest**

**Thou good and gracious King**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:See the world and seek justice, love mercy, and walk with commitment. Rejoice where the Kingdom has come. Give, to fulfill God’s mission of righteousness for all, 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**

**Colombia:** The Free Methodist Church began here over a quarter of a century ago to serve at-risk children in Colombia. Today, in addition to providing educational, nutritional and spiritual support to at-risk children in three different cities, there are now three established churches and seven church-planting projects. The district also has three leadership training centers and is very committed to planting community churches. Eight churches along the coast are also in the process of affiliation.

Pray for the development of healthy leaders, multiplication of committed disciples and continued empowerment of transformational churches, wisdom and grace for all the district pastors and leaders during this time of transition. Pray also for a smooth transition of a new missionary family, Shane and Katie Jewell, who arrived in August 2022.

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Step By Step”

**O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You**

**O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You**

**I will seek You in the morning**

**And I will learn to walk in Your way**

**And step by step You'll lead me**

**And I will follow You all of my days**

**\*Benediction**

L: Go into the world claiming Jesus as Christ, Messiah, and King. Make the Kingdom of God a reality among us. Humbly commit yourself to a life for others, in love and service as the King did. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.