**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 11, 2020**



*“Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.” (Matthew 22:8-10)*

Minister: Rev. Jason Evans

First Free Methodist Church

2625 N. Center Rd.

Saginaw, Michigan 48603

Phone: (989) 799-2930

Email: saginawfmc@gmail.com

[www.saginawfirstfmc.org](http://www.saginawfirstfmc.org)

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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 away from the valley of misplaced loyalties

**P: We come seeking Almighty God over the gods of our past**

L: We come together so our faith might be strengthened

**P: We come to give praise and thanksgiving to God our creator**

L: God’s awesome deeds delivered the peoples

**P: Surely God’s steadfast love continues with us today**

L: Rejoice that God is near and available to us

**P: We will abide with God thru all of our troubles**

**\*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: God of comfort and grace, you have invited people from all times to your table, and you welcome us also to this time of worship. In our past lives, we have been drawn to idols who corrupt us, but you call us to walk beside Christ our deliverer. Teach us to live faithfully to Christ’s witness. Help us to overcome our habits that are rooted in false gods, 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**

**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:** Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

 Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.”

 So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”

 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.”

 They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’”

 The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

 But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, “O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.

 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’”

 And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: God is faithful in coming to rescue peoples from desperate situations. But God uses people to go and speak to those who abuse. The church is the Moses of our day. But we are often fascinated with golden calves. For the times we are distracted from doing God’s work, let us repent…

**P: God of all mercy, you have planted within us a desire to spread justice through the world. O Lord, we are required to live righteous lives. But we often turn to falsehoods and that which is shameful to guide us. We focus on what is pleasing to the eye, praise that which is diluted, and commend that which is deceitful. Forgive us when we seek the kingdoms of man, and ignore our opportunities to build the kingdom of heaven. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 106

**P: Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD, or declare all his praise? Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times. Remember me, O LORD, when you show favor to your people; help me when you deliver them; Both we and our ancestors have sinned; we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly. They made a calf at Horeb and worshiped a cast image. They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass. They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.**

**\*Hymn of Affirmation:** “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” #231 (vv.1,4)

**Beneath the cross of Jesus**

**I fain would take my stand**

**The shadow of a mighty Rock**

**Within a weary land**

**A home within the wilderness**

**A rest upon the way**

**From the burning of the noon-tide heat**

**And the burden of the day**

**I take, O cross, thy shadow**

**For my abiding place**

**I ask no other sunshine than**

**The sunshine of His face**

**Content to let the world go by**

**To know no gain nor loss**

**My sinful self my only shame**

**My glory all the cross**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Philippians 4:1-9

 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. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Special Music:** Micki Martin

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.

 ‘Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.

 ‘The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’

 Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless.

 Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**\*Hymn of Response:** “He Leadeth Me” #99 (vv.1,3-4)

**He leadeth me: O blessed thought**

**O words with heavenly comfort fraught**

**Whate'er I do, where'er I be**

**Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me**

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me**

**By his own hand he leadeth me**

**His faithful follower I would be**

**For by his hand he leadeth me**

**Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine**

**Nor ever murmur nor repine**

**Content, whatever lot I see**

**Since 'tis my God that leadeth me**

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me**

**By his own hand he leadeth me**

**His faithful follower I would be**

**For by his hand he leadeth me**

**And when my task on earth is done**

**When, by thy grace, the victory's won**

**E'en death's cold wave I will not flee**

**Since God through Jordan leadeth me**

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me**

**By his own hand he leadeth me**

**His faithful follower I would be**

**For by his hand he leadeth me**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:God has invited you to the banquet, our live are a witness to our allegiance. Where our time, treasures, and talents go, speak of our worthiness. Give to the excellence of God’s kingdom, 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**: “Since Jesus Came into My Heart” #420 (vv.1,3)

**What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought**

**Since Jesus came into my heart!**

**I have light in my soul for which long I had sought**

**Since Jesus came into my heart!**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure**

**Since Jesus came into my heart!**

**And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure Since Jesus came into my heart!**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll**

**Since Jesus came into my heart**

**\*Benediction**

L: God has created this world and established it to sustain us. Keep your eyes focused on Christ, and follow in his footsteps. Continue doing the just things you’ve learned and received, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.