**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 12, 2021**



*“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’"*

*(Mark 8:34)*

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**Proper 19 (24)**

**September 12, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Almighty God created us from the dust of the earth

**P: We were knit together by God’s unfathomable wisdom**

L: God desires that we live in this wisdom

**P: We are a reflection of God’s eternal light**

L: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous

**P: Our God is merciful**

L: Our God has delivered our souls from eternal death

**P: I walk before the LORD in the land of the living**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” #17(vv. 1-4)

**Joyful, joyful, we adore thee**

**God of glory, Lord of love**

**Hearts unfold like flowers before thee**

**Opening to the sun above**

**Melt the clouds of sin and sadness**

**Drive the dark of doubt away**

**Giver of immortal gladness**

**Fill us with the light of day!**

**All thy works with joy surround thee**

**Earth and heaven reflect thy rays**

**Stars and angels sing around thee**

**Center of unbroken praise**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain**

**Flowery meadow, flashing sea**

**Chanting bird and flowing fountain**

**Call us to rejoice in thee**

**Thou art giving and forgiving**

**Ever blessing, ever blest**

**Well-spring of the joy of living**

**Ocean depth of happy rest**

**Thou our Father, Christ our brother**

**All who live in love are thine**

**Teach us how to love each other**

**Lift us to the joy divine**

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus**

**which the morning stars began**

**Father love is reigning o'er us**

**Brother love binds man to man**

**Ever singing, march we onward**

**Victors in the midst of strife**

**Joyful music leads us sunward**

**In the triumph song of life**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O Awesome God, Wisdom of the universe, you bear the pain of your people when you took on flesh and blood. Grant us the gift of wisdom, that we may discern your way and live justly and graciously amid the struggles of this world. Refresh our souls, determine within us to take up our cross, 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:** Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?

Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices. For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: God, the giver of all good gifts, has shown us great and many mercies through the death of our Lord, Christ Jesus. For the reconciliation of the world, love one another, so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P:** **Merciful Lord, with a pure heart I thank you for taking away my sin. Let your Holy Spirit guide my life so my soul may bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness, and self control. Renew my desire to be your faithful friend and servant. Increase my loving dependence on you, and grant me that love and peace that comes from doing your holy will through Christ strength. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 19

**P: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “I Surrender All” #486 (vv.1-4)

**All to Jesus I surrender**

**All to Him I freely give**

**I will ever love and trust Him**

**In His presence daily live**

**I surrender all, I surrender all**

**All to Thee, my blessed Savior**

**I surrender all**

**All to Jesus I surrender**

**Humbly at His feet I bow**

**Worldly pleasures all forsaken**

**Take me, Jesus, take me now**

**I surrender all, I surrender all**

**All to Thee, my blessed Savior**

**I surrender all**

**All to Jesus I surrender**

**Make me, Savior, wholly Thine**

**Let me feel the Holy Spirit**

**Truly know that Thou art mine**

**I surrender all, I surrender all**

**All to Thee, my blessed Savior**

**I surrender all**

**All to Jesus I surrender**

**Lord, I give myself to Thee**

**Fill me with Thy love and power**

**Let Thy blessing fall on me**

**I surrender all, I surrender all**

**All to Thee, my blessed Savior**

**I surrender all**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies.

Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell.

For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue--a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so.

Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

**Special Music:** Don Gingrich

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”

And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”

And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Where He Leads Me” #489 (vv.1-4)

**I can hear my Savior calling**

**I can hear my Savior calling**

**I can hear my Savior calling**

**Take Thy cross and follow, follow me**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**I'll go with Him, with Him all the way**

**I'll go with Him thro’ the garden**

**I'll go with Him thro’ the garden**

**I'll go with Him thro’ the garden**

**I'll go with Him, with Him all the way**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**I'll go with Him, with Him all the way**

**I’ll go with Him thro’ the judgment**

**I’ll go with Him thro’ the judgment**

**I’ll go with Him thro’ the judgment**

**I'll go with Him, with Him all the way**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**I'll go with Him, with Him all the way**

**He will give me grace and glory**

**He will give me grace and glory**

**He will give me grace and glory**

**And go with me, with me all the way**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**Where He leads me I will follow**

**I'll go with Him, with Him all the way**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:We serve a risen savior, no treasure on earth is worth the life that waits for us. By giving, we participate in taking up our cross in ministry to the gospel. Proudly give as our witness of the church, 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**: “Great is the Lord” #69 (vv.1-2)

**Great is the Lord**

**He is holy and just**

**By His power we trust**

**In His love**

**Great is the Lord**

**He is faithful and true**

**By His mercy He proves**

**He is love**

**Great is the Lord**

**And worthy of glory**

**Great is the Lord**

**And worthy of praise**

**Great is the Lord**

**Now lift up your voice**

**Now lift up your voice**

**Great is the Lord**

**Great is the Lord**

**Great is the Lord,**

**He is holy and just**

**By His power we trust**

**In His love**

**Great is the Lord**

**He is faithful, and true**

**By His mercy He proves**

**He is love**

**Great is the Lord**

**And worthy of glory**

**Great is the Lord**

**And worthy of praise**

**Great is the Lord**

**Now lift up your voice**

**Now lift up your voice**

**Great is the Lord**

**Great is the Lord**

**Great are you Lord**

**And worthy of glory**

**Great are you Lord**

**And worthy of praise**

**Great are you Lord**

**I lift up my voice**

**I lift up my voice**

**Great are you Lord**

**Great are you Lord**

**\*Benediction**

L: May the peace of God enfold you, The love of God uphold you, The wisdom of God control you. May the Spirit of God guide you, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.