**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 25, 2022**



*"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'" (Luke 16:31)*

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**PROPER 21 (26)**

**September 25, 2022**

**Prelude**

**Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God

**P: The firstborn over all creation**

L: For by him all things were created

**P: Things in heaven and those on earth**

L: Things that are visible and invisible

**P: All thrones, powers, rulers, authority**

L: All these things were created by him and for him

**P: In Christ all things hold together**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #147 (1,7,2,3,5)

**O for a thousand tongues to sing**

**My great Redeemer's praise**

**The glories of my God and King**

**The triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God**

**Assist me to proclaim**

**To spread thro' all the earth abroad**

**The honors of Thy name**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears,**

**That bids our sorrows cease,**

**'Tis music in the sinner's ears,**

**'Tis life and health and peace**

**He breaks the power of cancelled sin**

**He sets the prisoner free**

**His blood can make the foulest clean**

**His blood availed for me**

**Hear Him, ye deaf His praise ye dumb**

**Your loosened tongues employ**

**Ye blind, behold your Savior come**

**And leap ye lame for joy**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity; Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure. Your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature. Make us always thankful for your loving providence, 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 32:1-3a, 6-15

 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

 Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, “Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.”

 Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, “Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.” Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.

 And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard.

 In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Lord, by your grace, enlighten our understanding, strengthen our will, purify our hearts, and make us holy...

**P:** **You meet every need and provide for us out of your abundance. You give us far more than we ask or deserve, by promising us the riches of eternal life. Yet we are easily led astray. We become very attached to the things of this earth and put our trust in them; then we are disappointed when they do not satisfy. For putting temporal things above heavenly things, forgive us, O Lord. Many people suffer and they know why. Others are straining under burdens which they do not understand, and the load seems heavier. Give rest for troubled minds; give release to hurting bodies; give hope to those in despair; and grant us all salvation because we know all things are possible with you. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Wesley’s Prayer

**P: I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will, rank me with whom You will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by You or laid aside for You; exalted for You or brought low by You. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are mine, and I am Yours. So be it. Amen.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” #474 (1-4)

**O Love that wilt not let me go**

**I rest my weary soul in thee**

**I give thee back the life I owe**

**That in thine ocean depths its flow**

**May richer, fuller be**

**O Light that follow'st all my way**

**I yield my flick'ring torch to thee**

**My heart restores its borrowed ray**

**That in thy sunshine's blaze its day**

**May brighter, fairer be**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain**

**I cannot close my heart to thee**

**I trace the rainbow thro' the rain**

**And feel the promise is not vain**

**That morn shall tearless be**

**O Cross that liftest up my head**

**I dare not ask to fly from thee**

**I lay in dust life's glory dead**

**And from the ground there blossoms red**

**Life that shall endless be**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** 1 Timothy 6:6-19

 Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.

 But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

 But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

 In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time--he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

 It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 16:19-31

 “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

 The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.

 He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’

 But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’

 He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers--that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’

 Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’

 He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’

 He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

**Sermon** “”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Fairest Lord Jesus” #152 (vv.1-4)

**Fairest Lord Jesus
Ruler of all nature
O thou of God and man the Son
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor
Thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown**

**Fair are the meadows
Fairer still the woodlands
Robed in the blooming garb of spring
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer
Who makes the woeful heart to sing**

**Fair is the sunshine
Fairer still the moonlight
And all the twinkling starry host
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast**

**Beautiful Savior
Lord of all the nations
Son of God and Son of Man
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be thine**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: Give your hands to the Lord’s work. Put your feet to the Lord’s path. Give your tongue to speak the Lord’s truth. Give your heart to the love of God, 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**

**Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):** In 1963, 7000 Christians of the Bembe tribe voted to join the Free Methodist Church. The missionary group that had been working among them had withdrawn three years earlier when independence in the country brought upheaval. Numerous Free Methodist schools were established throughout the conference on both elementary and high school levels. A hospital was built at Nundu near Lake Tanganyika. A rural health network was established, expanding to include 38 health centers.

Pray for Bishop Lubunga W’Ehusha as he leads this large general conference. Pray for the churches as they outreach to the growing Muslim population and for an end to the recurring health crisis in the eastern part of the country where most FM members live.

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Shout to the Lord”

**My Jesus, my Saviour**

**Lord there is none like You**

**All of my days I want to praise**

**The wonders of Your mighty love**

**My comfort, my shelter**

**Tower of refuge and strength**

**Let every breath, all that I am**

**Never cease to worship You**

**Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing**

**Power and majesty, praise to the King**

**Mountains bow down and the seas will roar**

**At the sound of Your name**

**I sing for joy at the work of Your hand**

**Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand**

**Nothing compares to the promise I have**

**In You**

**\*Benediction**

L: Be embraced by the Source of life. Be inspired by the Source of hope. Be sustained by the Source of grace. Be blessed by the Source of truth. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.