**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 3, 2023



*“Michal took an idol and laid it on the bed; she put a net of goats’ hair on its head and covered it with the clothes.”*

*(I Samuel 19:13)*

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)

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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**Prelude**

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

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love

**P: Create in me a clean heart, O God**

L: Let me hear joy and gladness

**P: Put a new and right spirit within me**

L: You desire truth in the inward being

**P: Therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart**

L: Lead me in your truth, and teach me

**P: Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths**

**\*Opening Song:** “Mighty To Save”

**Everyone needs compassion**

**A love that's never failing**

**Let mercy fall on me**

**Everyone needs forgiveness**

**The kindness of a Saviour**

**The hope of nations**

**Saviour, he can move the mountains**

**My God is mighty to save**

**He is mighty to save**

**Forever Author of Salvation**

**He rose and conquered the grave**

**Jesus conquered the grave**

**So take me as you find me**

**All my fears and failures**

**Fill my life again**

**I give my life to follow**

**Everything that I believe in**

**Now I surrender**

**Saviour, he can move the mountains**

**My God is mighty to save**

**He is mighty to save**

**Forever Author of Salvation**

**He rose and conquered the grave**

**Jesus conquered the grave**

**Shine your light and let the whole world see**

**We're singing for the glory of the risen king Jesus**

**Shine your light and let the whole world see**

**We're singing for the glory of the risen king Jesus**

**Shine your light and let the whole world see**

**We're singing for the glory of the risen king Jesus**

**Shine your light and let the whole world see**

**We're singing for the glory of the risen king Jesus**

**Saviour, he can move the mountains**

**My God is mighty to save**

**He is mighty to save**

**Forever Author of Salvation**

**He rose and conquered the grave**

**Jesus conquered the grave**

**Saviour, You can move the mountains**

**God You are mighty to save**

**You is mighty to save**

**Forever Author of Salvation**

**You rose and conquered the grave**

**Yes You conquered the grave**

**Conquered the grave**

**Jesus conquered the grave**

**Conquered the grave**

**He has conquered the grave**

**\*Congregational Song:** “Holy Spirit”

**There’s nothing worth more**

**That could ever come close**

**No thing can compare**

**You're our living hope**

**Your presence, Lord**

**I’ve tasted and seen**

**Of the sweetest of loves**

**Where my heart becomes free**

**And my shame is undone**

**Your presence, Lord**

**Holy Spirit, You are welcome here**

**Come flood this place**

**And fill the atmosphere**

**Your glory, God**

**Is what our hearts long for**

**To be overcome by Your presence, Lord**

**Your presence, Lord**

**There’s nothing worth more**

**That could ever come close**

**No thing can compare**

**You're our living hope**

**Your presence, Lord**

**I’ve tasted and seen**

**Of the sweetest of loves**

**Where my heart becomes free**

**And my shame is undone**

**Your presence, Lord**

**Holy Spirit, You are welcome here**

**Come flood this place**

**And fill the atmosphere**

**Your glory, God**

**Is what our hearts long for**

**To be overcome by Your presence, Lord**

**Your presence, Lord**

**Let us become more aware of Your presence**

**Let us experience the glory of Your goodness**

**Let us become more aware of Your presence**

**Let us experience the glory of Your goodness**

**Let us become more aware of Your presence**

**Let us experience the glory of Your goodness**

**Holy Spirit, You are welcome here**

**Come flood this place**

**And fill the atmosphere**

**Your glory, God**

**Is what our hearts long for**

**To be overcome by Your presence, Lord**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Merciful God, your desire to bring us into your commonwealth is so great that you seek us in the places of our ignorance, and the forgotten corners where we hide in despair. Gather us into your loving embrace, and pour upon us your wise and holy Spirit, so that we may become faithful servants in whom you rejoice with all the company of heaven. Visit us your people, 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**

**\*Congregational Reading:** Romans 12

**P: Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Announcements**

**Special Music:** Don Gingrich

**Communion**

**MINISTER: THE INVITATION**

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who live in love and peace with

your neighbors and who intend to lead a new life, following the commandments

of God and walking in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy

sacrament to your comfort; and humbly kneeling, make your honest confession

to Almighty God.

**IN UNISON: THE GENERAL CONFESSION**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all

people, we confess that we have sinned, and we are deeply grieved as we

remember the wickedness of our past lives. We have sinned against You, Your

holiness and Your love, and we deserve only Your indignation and anger.

We sincerely repent, and we are genuinely sorry for all wrongdoing and every

failure to do the things we should. Our hearts are grieved, and we acknowledge

that we are hopeless without Your grace.

Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your son, our Savior, Jesus

Christ, who died for us.

Forgive us.

Cleanse us.

Give us strength to serve and please You in newness of life and to honor and praise

Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

O Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who with great mercy has promised

forgiveness to all who turn to You with hearty repentance and true faith, have

mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from our sins, make us strong and faithful in

all goodness and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CONGREGATION: THE COLLECT**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom

no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE SANCTUS**

It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times and

in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we

honor and adore Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying,

**CONGREGATION: THE SANCTUS (CONTINUED)**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord, most high. Amen

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

We do not come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, with self-confidence and

pride, trusting in our own righteousness, but we trust in Your great and many

mercies. We are not worthy to gather the crumbs from under Your table. But You,

O Lord, are unchanging in Your mercy and Your nature is love; grant us, therefore,

God of mercy, God of grace, so to eat at this Your table that we may receive in

spirit and in truth the body of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and the merits of His

shed blood, so that we may live and grow in His likeness and, being washed and

cleansed through His most precious blood, we may evermore live in Him and He

in us. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who gave in love Your only Son, Jesus Christ,

to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who by His sacrifice, offered

once for all, did provide a full, perfect, and sufficient atonement for the sins of the whole world,

we come now to Your table in obedience to Your Son, Jesus Christ, who in His holy gospel

commanded us to continue a perpetual memory of His precious death until He comes

again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we humbly ask, and grant that we, receiving this bread and this cup,

as He commanded and in the memory of His passion and death, may partake of His most blessed body and blood.

In the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

His disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In like manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of

this, all of you, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of

sins; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” Amen.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting

life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed upon Him in your heart, by faith with

thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life.

Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s blood was shed for you and be thankful.

**MINISTER: THE BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love

of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Spirit, be yours now and forever. Amen.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 19:16-22

Then someone came to him and said, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is one who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.”

He said to him, “Which ones?”

And Jesus said, “You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother. Also, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

The young man said to him, “I have kept all these; what do I still lack?”

Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this word, he went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

**Sermon** “Hidden Idols”

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “Take My Life and Let It Be” #455 (vv.1-2,5-6)

**Take my life and let it be**

**Consecrated, Lord, to thee**

**Take my moments and my days**

**Let them flow in endless praise**

**Let them flow in endless praise**

**Take my hands and let them move**

**At the impulse of Thy love**

**Take my feet and let them be**

**Swift and beautiful for Thee**

**Swift and beautiful for Thee**

**Take my will and make it Thine**

**It shall be no longer mine**

**Take my heart it is Thine own**

**It shall be Thy royal throne**

**It shall be Thy royal throne**

**Take my love my Lord I pour**

**At Thy feet its treasure store**

**Take myself and I will be**

**Ever only all for Thee**

**Ever only all for Thee**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. Do not worry about your life, but have trusted in the Lord without wavering. Give with joy, 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:** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” #96 (vv1-3)

**Guide me, O my great Jehovah**

**Pilgrim through this barren land**

**I am weak, but you are mighty**

**Hold me with your powerful hand**

**Bread of heaven, bread of heaven**

**Feed me till I want no more**

**Feed me till I want no more**

**Open now the crystal fountain**

**Where the healing streams doth flow**

**Let the fire and cloudy pillar**

**Lead me all my journey through**

**Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer**

**Be Thou still my strength and shield**

**Be Thou still my strength and shield**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan**

**Bid my anxious fears subside**

**Death of death, and hell's Destruction**

**Land me safe on Canaan's side**

**Songs of praises, songs of praises**

**I will ever give to Thee**

**I will ever give to Thee**

**\*Benediction**

L: Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.