**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**April 3, 2022**



*“Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume."*

*(John 12:3)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Encouragement comes from being united in Christ

**P: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit**

L: Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse

**P: If your enemy is hungry, feed him**

L: Be devoted to one another in love, honor one another above yourselves

**P: Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn**

L: Do not be overcome by evil

**P: We will overcome evil with good**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above” #52 (vv.1-4)

**Sing praise to God who reigns above**

**The God of all creation**

**The God of power, the God of love**

**The God of our salvation**

**With healing balm my soul is filled**

**And every faithless murmur stilled**

**To God all praise and glory**

**The Lord is never far away**

**But through all grief distressing**

**An ever present help and stay**

**Our peace and joy and blessing**

**As with a mother's tender hand**

**God gently leads the chosen band**

**To God all praise and glory**

**Thus all my toilsome way along**

**I sing aloud thy praises**

**That earth may hear the grateful song**

**My voice unwearied raises**

**Be joyful in the Lord, my heart**

**Both soul and body bear your part**

**To God all praise and glory**

**Let all who name Christ's holy name**

**Give God all praise and glory**

**Let all who own his power proclaim**

**Aloud the wondrous story**

**Cast each false idol from its throne**

**For Christ is Lord, and Christ alone**

**To God all praise and glory**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of ours; grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise. Though among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found. May our minds, thoughts, and hearts be inclined to your will, 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:** Isaiah 43:16-21

 Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: We confess to the Lord so we are reminded of that which is heavenly and that which is earthly. While all things around us pass away, we may hold fast those things which abide forever. May our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified...

**P: Loving God, who sees in us nothing that you have not given yourself, make my body healthy and agile, my mind sharp and clear, my heart joyful and contented, my soul faithful and loving. And surround me with the company of men and angels who share my devotion to you. Above all, let me live in your presence, for with you all fear is banished, and there is only harmony and peace. Let every day combine the beauty of spring, the brightness of summer, the abundance of autumn, and the repose of winter. And at the end of my life on earth, grant that I may come to see and to know you in the fullness of your glory. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 126

**P:** **When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Knowing You” (vv.1-3)

**All I once held dear, built my life upon**

**All this world reveres and wars to own**

**All I once thought gain I have counted loss**

**Spent and worthless now compared to this**

**Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You**

**There is no greater thing**

**You’re my all, You’re the best**

**You’re my joy, my righteousness**

**And I love You Lord**

**Now my heart’s desire is to know You more**

**To be found in You and known as Yours**

**To possess by faith what I could not earn**

**All surpassing gift of righteousness**

**Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You**

**There is no greater thing**

**You’re my all, You’re the best**

**You’re my joy, my righteousness**

**And I love You Lord**

**Oh to know the power of Your risen life**

**And to know You in Your sufferings**

**To become like You in Your death, my Lord**

**So with You to live and never die**

**Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You**

**There is no greater thing**

**You’re my all, You’re the best**

**You’re my joy, my righteousness**

**And I love You Lord**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Philippians 2:5-11

 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**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**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson****:** John 12:1-8

 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?”

 He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.

 Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

**Sermon:**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response****:** “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

**Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord**

**Open the Eyes of My Heart**

**I want to see You**

**I want to see You**

**Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord**

**Open the Eyes of My Heart**

**I want to see You**

**I want to see You**

**To see you High and Lifted Up**

**Shining in the light of Your glory**

**Pour out Your power and love**

**As we sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**To see you high and lifted up**

**Shining in the light of Your glory**

**Pour out your power and love**

**As we sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**You are holy, holy, holy**

**I want to see You**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**I want to see You**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Be encouraged, 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**: “The Solid Rock” #436 (vv.1-4)

**My hope is built on nothing less**

**Than Jesus blood and righteousness**

**I dare not trust the sweetest frame**

**But wholly lean on Jesus’ name**

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**When darkness seems to hide his face**

**I rest on his unchanging grace**

**In every high and stormy gale**

**My anchor holds within the veil**

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**His oath, His covenant, His blood**

**Support me in the whelming flood**

**When all around my soul gives way**

**He then is all my hope and stay**

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound**

**O may I then in Him be found**

**Dressed in His righteousness alone**

**Faultless to stand before the throne**

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**\*Benediction**

L: May the hand of God protect you. May the teaching of Christ instruct you. May the strength of the Holy Spirit carry you. May you have harmony of the soul, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.