**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

**April 4, 2021**



*“As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.”*

 *Mark 16:5)*

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**RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: He has risen!

**P: He has risen indeed!**

L: Where, O death, is your victory?

**P: Where, O death, is your sting?**

L: Death has been swallowed up in victory

**P: Christ has indeed been raised from the dead**

L: For this reason, Christ died and returned to life

**P: So that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living**

L: Jesus is the resurrection and the life, whoever believes lives, though they die

**P: Thanks be to God! Who gives us the victory through Christ Jesus our Lord**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” #260 (vv.1-4)

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!**

**Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!**

**Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!**

**Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!**

**Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!**

**Dying once, He all did save, Alleluia!**

**Where's thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!**

**Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!**

**Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!**

**Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!**

**Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!**

**Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!**

**Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Mighty God, in whom we know the power of redemption, You are alive this day in Spirit and in Truth. You proclaimed hope to women that glorious morning, then the disciples, and later the whole world. We also this day, have hope because of your resurrection many years ago. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. May we be witnesses to all Christ did, 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**

**Old Testament Scripture Lesson:** Isaiah 25:6-9

 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Through the resurrection, God destroyed the power of death and removed people’s shame. Let us rejoice in this gift of salvation with all the saints…

**P: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried. He descended into hades, the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Isaiah 55

**P: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them… For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Thine Is the Glory” #264 (vv.1-3)

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away**

**Kept the folded grave-clothes, where Thy body lay**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb**

**Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom**

**Let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing**

**For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**No more we doubt Thee, Prince of Life**

**Life is naught without Thee, aid us in our strife**

**Make us more than conqu’rors, thro’ Thy deathless love**

**Bring us safely thro’ Jordan, to Thy home above**

**Thine be the glory, risen, conqu’ring Son**

**Endless is the vict’ry Thou o’er death hast won**

**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.

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

 Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

 For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Mark 16:1-8

 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

 They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

 But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Christ Arose” #258 (vv.1-3)

**Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,**

**Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!**

**Up from the grave he arose**

**With a mighty triumph o'er his foes**

**He arose a victor from the dark domain**

**And he lives forever, with his saints to reign**

**He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose**

**Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior,**

**Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!**

**Up from the grave he arose**

**With a mighty triumph o'er his foes**

**He arose a victor from the dark domain**

**And he lives forever, with his saints to reign**

**He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose**

**Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;**

**He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!**

**Up from the grave he arose**

**With a mighty triumph o'er his foes**

**He arose a victor from the dark domain**

**And he lives forever, with his saints to reign**

**He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:In Christ, we have been rescued from death, and encountered true life. As we realize everything we’ve been saved from, gratitude flows from our hearts like living waters. Be eager to share God’s love with the world, 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:** “He Lives” #262 (vv.1-3)

**I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today**

**I know that He is living, whatever men may say**

**I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer**

**And just the time I need Him, He's always near**

**He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!**

**He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way**

**He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart**

**You ask me how I know He lives?**

**He lives within my heart**

**In all the world around me I see His loving care**

**And though my heart grows weary I never will despair**

**I know that He is leading, thro' all the stormy blast**

**The day of His appearing will come at last**

**He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!**

**He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way**

**He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart**

**You ask me how I know He lives?**

**He lives within my heart**

**Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian! Lift up your voice and sing**

**Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King**

**The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find**

**None other is so loving, so good and kind**

**He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!**

**He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way**

**He lives! He lives! Salvation to impart**

**You ask me how I know He lives?**

**He lives within my heart**

**\*Benediction**

L: God made the world in beauty, and restored all thing in glory through the victory of Christ Jesus. Wherever God’s image is still disfigured by selfishness, war, and greed, go! Take the good news to the world, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.