**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 14, 2022**



*“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!” (Luke 12:49)*

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**PROPER 14 (19)**

**August 7, 2022**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever

**P: God, my King, is from of old, working salvation in the earth**

L: The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer

**P: My rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation**

L: It is you who light my lamp

**P: The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness**

L: All people, give glory to the Lord God

**P: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “He is Exalted” (x2)

**He is exalted, the King is exalted**

**And I will praise Him**

**He is exalted, the King is exalted**

**And I will praise His name**

**He is Lord, forever his truth shall reign**

**Heaven and earth exalt his holy name**

**He is exalted, the King is exalted on high**

**He is exalted, the King is exalted**

**And I will praise Him**

**He is exalted, the King is exalted**

**And I will praise His name**

**He is Lord, forever his truth shall reign**

**Heaven and earth exalt his holy name**

**He is exalted, the King is exalted on high**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, who has given the only Son to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life; give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive his most inestimable benefit, and also daily endeavor ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life. May we walk in the way of his suffering and share in his resurrection, 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 5:1-7

 Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

**Prayer of Confession**

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

**P:** **Oh God, early in the morning I cry to you. Help me to pray and to concentrate my thoughts on you. I cannot do this alone. In me there is darkness, but with you there is light. I am lonely, but you do not leave me. I am feeble in heart, but with you there is help. I am restless, but with you there is peace. In me there is bitterness, but with you there is patience. I do not understand your ways, but you know the way for me. Restore me to liberty, and enable me so to live now that I answer before you and before me. Lord, whatever this day may bring, your name be praised. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 82

**P: God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: “How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.” They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk around in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. Rise up, O God, judge the earth; for all the nations belong to you!**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Cleanse Me” #516 (vv.1-4)

**Search me, O God**

**And know my heart today**

**Try me, O Savior**

**Know my thoughts, I pray**

**See if there be**

**Some wicked way in me**

**Cleanse me from every sin**

**And set me free**

**I praise Thee, Lord**

**For cleansing me from sin**

**Fulfill Thy Word**

**And make me pure within**

**Fill me with fire**

**Where once I burned with shame**

**Grant my desire**

**To magnify Thy Name**

**Lord, take my life**

**And make it wholly Thine**

**Fill my poor heart**

**With Thy great love divine**

**Take all my will**

**My passion, self and pride**

**I now surrender, Lord**

**In me abide**

**O Holy Ghost**

**Revival comes from Thee**

**Send a revival**

**Start the work in me**

**Thy Word declares**

**Thou wilt supply our need**

**For blessings now**

**O Lord, I humbly plead**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Hebrews 11:29-12:2

 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

 And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

 Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented, of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Special Music:** Micki Martin

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 12:49-56

 “I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!

 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

 He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens.

 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response****:** “Faith of Our Fathers” #639 (vv.1,3-4)

**Faith of the fathers, living still**

**In spite of dungeon, fire, and sword**

**Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy**

**Whene’er we hear that glorious word!**

**Faith of the fathers, holy faith,**

**We will be true to thee till death**

**Faith of the fathers, we will strive**

**To win all nations unto thee**

**And thro’ the truth that comes from God**

**Mankind shall then be truly free**

**Faith of the fathers, holy faith,**

**We will be true to thee till death**

**Faith of the fathers, we will love**

**Both friend and foe in all our strife**

**And preach thee, too, as love knows how**

**By kindly words and virtuous life**

**Faith of the fathers, holy faith,**

**We will be true to thee till death**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law meditate day and night. Through the abundance of God’s steadfast love, we will enter the place that’s been prepared for us. Put our trust in God, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer**

**Belgium:** The FMC in Belgium is registered with the government. It became an official FM mission district in 2004. Pastor Eleazar Habiyakare along with Emmanuel Niyonsenga leads the Brussels congregation. Eric and Amy Casteel, both elders from the East Michigan Conference, are currently living in Belgium while Amy works on her PhD. Eric volunteers time to the FMC serving as a mentor and coach for the Belgium team.

Pray for the leadership development for existing churches along with the development of effective youth outreach. Also, pray for the identification of new leaders for French and Dutch speaking with new church planting opportunities.

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Praise Him! Praise Him!” #117 (vv.1-3)

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer**

**Sing, O Earth, His wonderful love proclaim**

**Hail Him! Hail Him! Highest archangels in glory**

**Strength and honor give to His holy Name**

**Like a shepherd, Jesus will guard His children**

**In His arms He carries them all day long**

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness**

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Ever in joyful song**

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer**

**For our sins He suffered and bled and died**

**He, our rock, our hope for eternal salvation**

**Hail Him hail Him, Jesus the crucified**

**Sound his praises Jesus who bore our sorrows**

**Love unbounded wonderful deep and strong**

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness**

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Ever in joyful song**

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer**

**Heav’nly portals loud with hosannas ring**

**Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever**

**Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet, and Priest, ‘n King**

**Christ is coming! over the world victorious**

**Pow’r and glory unto the Lord belong**

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Tell of His excellent greatness**

**Praise Him! Praise Him! Ever in joyful song**

**\*Benediction**

L: It is the Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. May the Lord keep you from all evil and keep your life. May the Lord keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.