**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 16, 2020**



*“Then Jesus answered her, ‘Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed instantly.” (Matthew 15:28)*

Guest Speakers: Mark & Lena

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**The mission of Saginaw First Free Methodist Church is to be faithful to God and to make known to all people everywhere God’s call to wholeness in Jesus Christ.**

**Prelude**

**Greeting/Announcements**

L: God’s kingdom is a home for all people

**P: God’s face shines over all the peoples of the earth**

L: Let all the people praise the God of all nations

**P: May faith grow beyond our doubt**

L: Let all the ends of the earth revere our Creator

**P: God brings us together in unity and purpose**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “O Worship the King” #64 (vv.1-4)

**O worship the King all-glorious above**

**O gratefully sing His power and His love**

**Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days**

**Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise**

**O tell of His might and sing of His grace**

**Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space**

**His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form**

**And dark is His path on the wings of the storm**

**Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?**

**It breathes in the air, it shines in the light**

**It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain**

**And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail**

**In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail**

**Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end**

**Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: God of peace, how good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity. Draw us now into the community you intend for all your people. Help us to listen and understand, both your word for us and sharing your vision for one another. Keep us from being misled by popular claims and wisdom of the marketplace. Remind us to be obedient to your call, as we pray together 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:** Genesis 45:1-15

 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.

 For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

 I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty. And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.”

 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Our speech and our actions call into question our faithfulness to God. In times of stress, we respond in ways we later regret. We prefer to remain in our comfort than accept the new truths we are presented with. For our lives of fear, let us confess...

**P: Holy Spirit, who is our great comforter and advocate, we often live in ways and participate in systems of sin that we’ve failed to identify. We are unaware of the sin that protrudes from our mouths. We don’t see that the work of our hands is hurtful and disobedient. Show us how we hurt one another. Grant us the courage to seek forgiveness and reconciliation. Remind us to seek your mercy, so we can work towards bringing heaven to earth. Forgive us when we act and comment in ways that defile. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 67

**P: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make God’s face to shine upon us; that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us. May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere God.**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson**: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 15: 10-28

 Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.”

 Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?”

 He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.”

 But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.”

 Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”

 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”

 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”

 He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

 She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.”

 Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

**Guest Speaker:** Mark & Lena

**Invitation of Offering**

L: Like the Canaanite woman, many in this world are struggling for physical health. Others are void of spiritual health. Persistence in seeking God’s will brings God glory. Give for the preservation of all life, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Prayer**

**Closing Hymn**: “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” #677 (vv.1-4)

**Blest be the tie that binds**

**Our hearts in Christian love**

**The fellowship of kindred minds**

**Is like to that above**

**Before our Father's throne**

**We pour our ardent prayers**

**Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one**

**Our comforts and our cares**

**We share each other's woes**

**Our mutual burdens bear**

**And often for each other flows**

**The sympathizing tear**

**When we asunder part**

**It gives us inward pain**

**But we shall still be joined in heart**

**And hope to meet again**

**Benediction**

L: Let your heart not defile you, but let love flow from your mouth and hands. Be persistent in sharing the Gospel. Show mercy and care for the world, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.