**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 1, 2021**



*“Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"*

*(John 6:31)*

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**Proper 13 (18)**

**August 1, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: You give life You are love

**P: You bring light to the darkness**

L: It’s Your breath in our lungs

**P: You give hope, You restore ev’ry heart that is broken**

L: So, we pour out our praise to You O Lord

**P: And all the earth will shout Your praise**

L: Our hearts will cry these bones will sing

**P: Great are You Lord**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Come, Thou Almighty King” #3 (vv. 1-4)

**Come, Thou Almighty King**

**Help us thy name to sing**

**Help us to praise**

**Father all glorious, over all victorious**

**Come and reign over us**

**Ancient of days**

**Come, Thou incarnate Word**

**Gird on Thy mighty sword**

**Our prayer attend**

**Come and Thy people bless**

**And give thy word success**

**Spirit of holiness on us descend**

**Come, holy comforter**

**Thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour**

**Thou who almighty art**

**Now rule in every heart**

**And never from us depart Spirit of power**

**To Thee, great one in three**

**Eternal praises be, hence ever more**

**Thy sovereign majesty**

**May we in glory see**

**And to eternity love and adore**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Heal our lives, that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds and offer you thanks from generation to generation. Pour out your strength and courage upon us, 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:** 2 Samuel 11:26 - 12:13a

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, and the LORD sent Nathan to David.

He came to him, and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.”

Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.”

Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites.

Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.”

David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Like David, we occasionally get greedy, grasping for what is not ours even though we have enough. Let us be filled with the bread of life, so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P:** **Good and dear Jesus, I kneel before you, asking you most earnestly to engrave upon my heart a deep and lively faith, hope, and charity, with true repentance for my sins, and a firm resolve to make amends. As I reflect upon your wounds, and dwell upon them with deep compassion and grief, may I be steadfast in journey onward to serve you with greater justice and righteousness. Keep me reminded to surrender myself to you will. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 51

**P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Amazing Grace” #85 (vv.1-2,4-5)

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound**

**That saved a wretch like me**

**I once was lost, but now am found**

**Was blind, but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear**

**And grace my fears relieved**

**How precious did that grace appear**

**The hour I first believed**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares**

**I have already come**

**‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far**

**And grace will lead me home**

**When we’ve been there, ten thousand years**

**Bright shining as the sun**

**We’ve no less days, to sing God’s praise**

**Than when we first begun**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** Ephesians 4:1-16

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, “When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.”

(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

**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.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 6:24-35

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”

Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?”

Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee” #749 (vv.1-2,4)

**Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face**

**Here would I touch and handle things unseen**

**Here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace**

**And all my weariness upon Thee lean**

**Here would I feed upon the bread of God**

**Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav’n**

**Here would I lay aside each earthly load**

**Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv’n**

**Too soon we rise, the symbols disappear**

**The feast, tho’ not the love, is past and done**

**Gone are the bread and wine, but You are here**

**Nearer than ever, still my Shield and Sun**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:TheGenerous God, invites us to the heavenly feast, promising to fill us with every good thing. Blessed by God, pass these gifts on to others, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “We are One in the Spirit” #Handout (vv.1-4)

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord**

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord**

**And we pray that our unity will one day be restored**

**And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love**

**Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand**

**And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land**

**And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love**

**Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side**

**And we’ll guard human dignity and we’ll save human pride**

**And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love**

**Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love**

**All praise to the Father, from whom all things come**

**And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son**

**And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one**

**And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love**

**Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love**

**\*Benediction**

L: Go into the world with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love, in the unity of the Spirit, and the bond of peace. Share the Bread of Life, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.