**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023



*“But Jesus said to him, ‘Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.’”*

*(Matthew 8:22)*

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**Prelude**

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

L: O sing to the Lord a new song

**P: Sing to the Lord, all the earth**

L: Sing to the Lord; praise his name

**P: Tell of his salvation from day to day**

L: Declare his glory among the nations

**P: His marvelous works among all the peoples**

L: Worship the Lord in holy splendor

**P: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name**

**\*Opening Song:** “Let Me Sing”

**Let me sing for the breath that You've given**

**Every day for the life You sustain**

**The beat of the heart**

**You formed when I was made**

**Let me worship Your wonder and splendor**

**Though the heavens Your glory proclaim**

**They don't know the price You paid for my life**

**The sacrifice You made**

**Let me sing**

**Louder than creation to You**

**For the pain You bore in Your body**

**To bring my soul to You**

**Let me shine**

**Brighter than the stars in the sky**

**An offering of praise all my life**

**To You my holy King**

**Let me sing**

**Let me sing**

**Let me sing for the mercy You've given**

**Undeserving and broken am I**

**Though I've turned away**

**Your faithfulness remains**

**Let me live in the light of forever**

**As I walk through the course of my days**

**And join to proclaim with all of the saints**

**The only worthy name**

**Let me sing**

**Louder than creation to You**

**For the pain You bore in Your body**

**To bring my soul to You**

**Let me shine**

**Brighter than the stars in the sky**

**An offering of praise all my life**

**To You my holy King**

**Let me sing**

**Let me sing**

**Let me sing**

**Louder than creation to You**

**For the pain You bore in Your body**

**To bring my soul to You**

**Let me shine**

**Brighter than the stars in the sky**

**An offering of praise all my life**

**To You my holy King**

**Let me sing**

**Let me sing**

**\*Congregational Song:** “Holy Spirit”

**There’s nothing worth more**

**That could ever come close**

**No thing can compare**

**You're our living hope**

**Your presence, Lord**

**I’ve tasted and seen**

**Of the sweetest of loves**

**Where my heart becomes free**

**And my shame is undone**

**Your presence, Lord**

**Holy Spirit, You are welcome here**

**Come flood this place**

**And fill the atmosphere**

**Your glory, God**

**Is what our hearts long for**

**To be overcome by Your presence, Lord**

**Your presence, Lord**

**There’s nothing worth more**

**That could ever come close**

**No thing can compare**

**You're our living hope**

**Your presence, Lord**

**I’ve tasted and seen**

**Of the sweetest of loves**

**Where my heart becomes free**

**And my shame is undone**

**Your presence, Lord**

**Holy Spirit, You are welcome here**

**Come flood this place**

**And fill the atmosphere**

**Your glory, God**

**Is what our hearts long for**

**To be overcome by Your presence, Lord**

**Your presence, Lord**

**Let us become more aware of Your presence**

**Let us experience the glory of Your goodness**

**Let us become more aware of Your presence**

**Let us experience the glory of Your goodness**

**Holy Spirit, You are welcome here**

**Come flood this place**

**And fill the atmosphere**

**Your glory, God**

**Is what our hearts long for**

**To be overcome by Your presence, Lord**

**Your presence, Lord**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: God of power and justice, like Jeremiah you weep over those who wander from you, turn aside to other gods, and enter into chaos and destruction. By your tears and through your mercy, teach us your ways and write them on our hearts so that we may follow faithfully the path you show us. We praise your abiding guidance, 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**

**Congregational Reading:**

**P: Holy Spirit, inspire me to think as I ought; to speak as I ought; to keep silent when I ought; to write as I ought; to act as I ought; and to work as I ought for the good of my brothers and sisters, the fulfillment of my mission and the triumph of the kingdom of Christ. Come, enlighten my understanding in order to know your commands, strengthen my heart against the snares of the enemy; enkindle my will. I have heard your voice and I do not want to harden my heart and resist. Spirit of truth and of wisdom, Spirit of understanding and of counsel, Spirit of joy and of peace; I want what you want, because you want it, as you want it, when you want it. Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Announcements**

**Children’s Choir**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 8:18-22

Now when Jesus saw a crowd around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. A scribe then approached and said, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” Another of his disciples said to him, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”

**Sermon:** “Kairos Moments”

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “And Can It Be” #225 (vv.1-4)

**And can it be that I should gain**

**An int'rest in the Savior's blood**

**Died He for me, who caused His pain**

**For me, who Him to death pursued**

**Amazing love! how can it be**

**That Thou, my God, should die for me**

**Amazing love! how can it be**

**That Thou, my God, should die for me**

**He left His Father's throne above**

**So free, so infinite His grace**

**Emptied Himself of all but love**

**And bled for Adam's helpless race**

**'Tis mercy all, immense and free**

**For, O my God, it found out me**

**Amazing love! how can it be**

**That Thou, my God, should die for me**

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay**

**Fast bound in sin and nature's night**

**Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray**

**I woke, the dungeon flamed with light**

**My chains fell off, my heart was free**

**I rose, went forth and followed Thee**

**My chains fell off, my heart was free**

**I rose, went forth and followed Thee**

**No condemnation now I dread**

**Jesus, and all in Him is mine**

**Alive in Him, my living Head**

**And clothed in righteousness divine**

**Bold I approach th’eternal throne**

**And claim the crown, through Christ my own**

**Bold I approach th’eternal throne**

**And claim the crown, through Christ my own**

**Invitation of Offering**

L: Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers. Say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.” Give from the contentment of your heart, 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:** “Majesty” #122

**Majesty, worship His majesty**

**Unto Jesus, be all glory, honor, and praise**

**Majesty, kingdom authority**

**Flow from His throne unto His own, His anthem raise**

**So exalt, lift up on high, the name of Jesus**

**Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King**

**Majesty, worship His majesty**

**Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings**

**\*Benediction**

L: The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. May the mercy of the unchanging God comfort your mind. May Christ’s righteousness be in your actions. May the Spirit keep your heart pure. Meekly go in peace to love and serve. Amen.