**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY**

**December 26, 2021**



*“And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers." (Luke 2:47)*

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**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY**

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: In the beginning was the Word

**P: The Word was with God, and the Word was God**

L: He was in the beginning with God

**P: All things came into being through him**

L: In him was life, and the life was the light of all people

**P: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it**

L: The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world

**P: He was in the world, and the world came into being through him**

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us

**P: We have seen his glory full of grace and truth**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate word. Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives, through Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever; and who taught us to pray…

**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.​**

**Special Music:** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

**Christmas Reading**

Believing that God’s written Word, uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit, bears unerring witness to Jesus Christ, the living Word, we hold Scripture as our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. While seeking to communicate authentically and apply biblical truths with cultural sensitivity, we yet understand that Scripture’s timeless truths may call us to stand counter-culturally against the norms and pressures of the world. In the Free Methodist Way, we seek to align our lives fully with the unshakeable foundation of God’s Word.

Introducing the Passages:

For this first Sunday after Christmas Day, Luke’s gospel beautifully connects the dots between Jesus and his forerunner, Samuel—both miraculous sons given back to God, whose true home is God’s house, and, most significantly, who uniquely hear and obey the revelatory voice of God. Colossians calls us from merely individualized piety to relational, corporate life as the bound-together Body of Christ, his word dwelling richly within and among us under the rule of his peace. In this word-indwelt community, and indeed with all of creation, as the psalmist commands, we are to bring praise and thanks to God!

Candle Lighting Litany:

As the Christ Candle, the 5th and ultimate candle, centers our Advent wreath, so do we Free Methodists see Scripture, the God-given written word, centered on and bearing witness to Jesus the Living Word, Who is the fullest, most adequate revelation given by God of God. May we, like young Jesus and Samuel both, listen to the word of God obediently, and hear the voice of Jesus the Word calling us! May he dwell in us richly, that we, his Body, may together stand against cultural and societal pressure, laying down our individual rights for the sake of others, bearing with one another, forgiving each other, bound together in harmony with hearts ruled by the peace of Christ. With all of creation we give thanks and praise for the Word Who became flesh to dwell with us. Welcome, Emmanuel!

**Opening Hymn:** “Angels, from the realms of Glory” #192 (vv.1-4)

**Angels from the realms of glory**

**Wing your flight o'er all the earth**

**Ye who sang creation's story**

**Now proclaim Messiah's birth**

**Come and worship, come and worship**

**Worship Christ, the newborn king**

**Shepherds in the field abiding**

**Watching o’er our flocks by night**

**God with man is now residing**

**Yonder shines the infant light**

**Come and worship, come and worship**

**Worship Christ, the newborn king**

**Sages leave your contemplations**

**Brighter visions beam afar**

**Seek the great desire of nations**

**Ye have seen His natal star**

**Come and worship, come and worship**

**Worship Christ, the newborn king**

**Saints before the altar bending**

**Watching long in hope and fear**

**Suddenly the Lord descending**

**In His temple shall appear**

**Come and worship, come and worship**

**Worship Christ, the newborn king**

**First Scripture Lesson**: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

**Special Music:** “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

**Prayer of Confession**

**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:** Psalm 98

**P:** **O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “What Child is This?” #179 (vv.1-3)

**What Child is this who, laid to rest**

**On Mary’s lap is sleeping**

**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet**

**While shepherd watch our keeping**

**This, this is Christ the King**

**Whom shepherds guard and angels sing**

**Haste, haste to bring Him laud**

**The babe the son of Mary**

**What lies He in such mean estate**

**Where ox and ass are feeding**

**Good Christian fear, for sinners here**

**The silent Word is pleading**

**This, this is Christ the King**

**Whom shepherds guard and angels sing**

**Haste, haste to bring Him laud**

**The babe the son of Mary**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh**

**Come peasant, king to own Him**

**The King of kings salvation brings**

**Let loving hearts enthrone Him**

**This, this is Christ the King**

**Whom shepherds guard and angels sing**

**Haste, haste to bring Him laud**

**The babe the son of Mary**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** Colossians 3:12-17

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Special Music:** Children’s Choir

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Special Music:** “I Heard the bells on Christmas Day”

**Gospel Lesson**: Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.”

He said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?”

But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

**Sermon:** “God Given Revelation”

**Prayer of Response**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The child will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And the people will live securely. Give, as you are able, for the security of all people, 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.**

**\*** **Passing of the Peace**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “The Birthday of a King” #187 (vv.1-2)

**In the little village Of Bethlehem**

**There lay A child one day**

**And the sky was bright With a holy light**

**O'er the place Where Jesus lay**

**Alleluia, O how the angels sang**

**Alleluia, How it rang**

**And the sky was bright With a holy light**

**'Twas the birthday Of a King**

**‘Twas a Humble birthplace**

**But O how much God gave**

**To us that day from the manger bed**

**What a path has led what a perfect holy way Alleluia, O how the angels sang**

**Alleluia, How it rang**

**And the sky was bright With a holy light**

**'Twas the birthday Of a King**

**\*Benediction**

L: Mat the grace of the Word of life rest upon you; the love of the Source of life embrace you; and the transforming power of the Breath of life help, strengthen and surprise you, this day. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.