**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**6th Sunday After Epiphany**

**February 12, 2023**



*“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the word." (Acts 10:44)*

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**Prelude**

**Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Come and be planted by the stream of living water

**P: Blessed are those who trust in the Lord**

L: Christ came to heal our iniquity

**P: So that we will be filled with every good thing**

L: Christ came to bring life to the perishing

**P: We will rejoice in the joy of our salvation**

L: God’s commandments are the guide to our path

**P: Great and pure is our reward in heaven**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Majesty” #122 (x2)

**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**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you; Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we do nothing apart from you, give us the help of your grace. Help us to keep your commandments that we may please you both in will and deed. May we receive the liberty that you have made know in your son, our savior Christ Jesus, 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.​**

**Congregational Reading:** Apostle’s Creed

**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.**

**Congregational Hymn:** “Take My Life and Let It Be” #455 (vv.1,4-6)

**Take my life and let it be**

**Consecrated, Lord, to thee**

**Take my moments and my days**

**Let them flow in endless praise**

**Let them flow in endless praise**

**Take my silver and my gold**

**Not a mite would I withhold**

**Take my intellect and use**

**Every power as thou shalt choose**

**Every power as thou shalt choose**

**Take my will and make it Thine**

**It shall be no longer mine**

**Take my heart it is Thine own**

**It shall be Thy royal throne**

**It shall be Thy royal throne**

**Take my love my Lord I pour**

**At thy feet its treasures store**

**Take my self and I will be**

**Ever only all for thee**

**Ever only all for thee**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “Refiner’s Fire” (vv.1-2)

**Purify my heart**

**Let me be as gold and precious silver**

**Purify my heart**

**Let me be as gold, pure gold**

**Refiner’s fire, my hearts one desire**

**Is to be holy, set apart for you lord**

**I choose to be holy, set apart for you**

**My master, ready to do your will**

**Purify my heart**

**Cleanse me from within and make me holy**

**Purify my heart**

**Cleanse me from my sin, deep within**

**Refiner’s fire, my hearts one desire**

**Is to be holy, set apart for you lord**

**I choose to be holy, set apart for you**

**My master, ready to do your will**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The Sovereign God ordained us as stewards of God’s world. We are the fruits of God’s abiding love. Give your first fruits of the harvest, trusting God is eternally gracious. Share the good news, 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.**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” #507 (vv.1-4)

**Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down**

**Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown**

**Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art**

**Visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit, Into every troubled breast**

**Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find that second rest**

**Take away our bent to sinning, Alpha and Omega be**

**End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive**

**Suddenly return and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave**

**Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above**

**Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love**

**Finish, then, thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be**

**Let us see thy great salvation, perfectly restored in thee**

**Changed from glory into glory, 'til in heav'n we take our place**

**Til we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise**

**\*Benediction**

L: Receive Christ in the life of the less fortunate. Abide with Christ rooted near the streams of living water. Share Christ with those seeking corruptible treasures. Be Christ for those who seek, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.