**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Transfiguration Sunday**

**February 27, 2022**



*““And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him."*

*(Luke 9:29-30)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: Praise the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain

**P: For the Lord our God is holy**

L: For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord

**P: No one will hurt or destroy on God’s holy mountain**

L: Jesus is the light of the world

**P: We who keep God’s covenant are led to God’s holy mountain**

L: People from every tribe, tongue, and nation shall live together

**P: God’s house shall be called a house of prayer**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” #65 (vv.1-4)

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise**

**In light inaccessible hid from our eyes**

**Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days**

**Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light**

**Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might**

**Thy justice like mountains high soaring above**

**Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love**

**To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small**

**In all life Thou livest, the true life of all**

**Thy wisdom so boundless, Thy mercy so free**

**Eternal Thy goodness for naught changeth Thee**

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light**

**Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight**

**All laud we would render, O help us to see**

**Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O God, who before the passion of thy only-begotten Son did reveal his glory upon the holy mount: Grant unto us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; though the same Jesus Christ our lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Let us give thanks for all things, 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.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Exodus 34:29-35

 Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.

 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

 When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Let us surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits and blessings which Christ has bestowed upon us. May we remember our confession moment by moment, so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified...

**P: Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ, whose compassion illumines the world. Transform us into the likeness of the love of Christ, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity. Take me as your disciple, guide me, illuminate me, sanctify me. Bind my hands that they may do no evil; cover my eyes that they may see it no more; sanctify my heart that evil may not dwell within me. Wherever you lead me, I will go. Whatever you forbid me, I will renounce. Whatever you command me, in your strength, I will do. Lead me into the fullness of your truth. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 99

**P: The LORD is king; let the people tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The LORD is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” #30 (vv.1-4)

**A mighty Fortress is our God**

**A Bulwark never failing**

**Our Helper He amid the flood**

**Of mortal ills prevailing**

**For still our ancient foe**

**Doth seek to work us woe**

**His craft and power are great**

**And, armed with cruel hate**

**On earth is not his equal**

**Did we in our own strength confide**

**Our striving would be losing**

**Were not the right Man on our side**

**The Man of God’s own choosing**

**Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He**

**Lord Sabaoth His Name**

**From age to age the same**

**And He must win the battle**

**And though this world, with devils filled**

**Should threaten to undo us**

**We will not fear, for God hath willed**

**His truth to triumph through us**

**The Prince of Darkness grim**

**We tremble not for him His rage we can endure**

**For lo! his doom is sure**

**One little word shall fell him**

**That word above all earthly powers**

**No thanks to them, abideth**

**The Spirit and the gifts are ours**

**Through Him who with us sideth**

**Let goods and kindred go**

**This mortal life also**

**The body they may kill**

**God’s truth abideth still**

**His Kingdom is forever**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside.

 Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson****:** Luke 9:28-36

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” not knowing what he said.

While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and, in those days, told no one any of the things they had seen.

**Sermon:** “”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response****:** “Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord”

**Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord**

**Open the Eyes of My Heart**

**I want to see You**

**I want to see You**

**Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord**

**Open the Eyes of My Heart**

**I want to see You**

**I want to see You**

**To see you High and Lifted Up**

**Shining in the light of Your glory**

**Pour out Your power and love**

**As we sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**To see you high and lifted up**

**Shining in the light of Your glory**

**Pour out your power and love**

**As we sing, “Holy, Holy, Holy”**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**You are holy, holy, holy**

**I want to see You**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**I want to see You**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The glory of God dwells in us and shines through us. We give because it brings glory to God. We are good stewards because it is the mission of God. Bless that which you give, 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**: “To God Be the Glory” #36 (vv.1,3)

**To God be the glory, great things he hath done!**

**So loved he the world that he gave us his Son**

**Who yielded his life an atonement for sin**

**And opened the life-gate that all may go in**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the earth hear his voice**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the people rejoice**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son**

**And give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**Great things he hath taught us**

**Great things he hath done**

**And great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son**

**But purer, and higher, and greater will be**

**Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the earth hear his voice**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the people rejoice**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son**

**And give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**\*Benediction**

L: Go now, and speak of what you have seen of God’s glory. And may God shine the light of glory into your hearts. May Christ be with you and never leave you. And may the Spirit renew the image of God within you. Go in peace to love and serve. Amen.