**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

5th Sunday After Epiphany

February 5, 2023



*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)*

Minister: Rev. Jason Evans

First Free Methodist Church

2625 N. Center Rd.

Saginaw, Michigan 48603

Phone: (989) 799-2930

Email: saginawfmc@gmail.com

[www.saginawfirstfmc.org](http://www.saginawfirstfmc.org)

**5th Sunday After Epiphany**

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**Prelude**

**Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: The Lord draws all nations into God’s courts

**P: God is our rock and our fortress**

L: Jesus was anointed to preach good news to the poor

**P: The Spirit of the Lord was upon him**

L: To the prisoner and the oppressed

**P: It was a year of jubilee**

L: To the sick and the blind

**P: It is a year of the Lord’s favor**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Open the Eyes of My Heart”

**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**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: O God, you spoke your word and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ. Fill all creation with that word again, so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples, we may become one living body, your incarnate presence on the earth. And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name, 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:** Psalm 15

**P: O LORD, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors; in whose eyes the wicked are despised, but who honor those who fear the LORD; who stand by their oath even to their hurt; who do not lend money at interest, and do not take a bribe against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

**Congregational Hymn:** “When Morning Gilds the Skies” #110 (vv.1,4-6)

**When morning gilds the sky**

**Our hearts awaking cry**

**May Jesus Christ be praised**

**In all our work and prayer**

**We ask his loving care**

**May Jesus Christ be praised**

**Ye nations of mankind**

**In this your concord find**

**May Jesus Christ be praised**

**Let all the earth around**

**Ring joyous with the sound**

**May Jesus Christ be praised**

**In heav’n’s eternal bliss**

**The loveliest strain is this**

**May Jesus Christ be praised**

**Let earth, and sea, and sky**

**From depth to height reply**

**May Jesus Christ be praised**

**Be this while life is mine**

**My canticle divine**

**May Jesus Christ be praised**

**Be this th’ernal song**

**Thro’ all the ages long**

**May Jesus Christ be praised**

**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.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go” #474 (vv.1-4)

**O Love that wilt not let me go**

**I rest my weary soul in thee**

**I give thee back the life I owe**

**That in thine ocean depths its flow**

**May richer, fuller be**

**O Light that follow’st all my way**

**I yield my flick’ring torch to thee**

**My heart restores its borrowed ray**

**That in thy sunshine’s blaze its day**

**May brighter, fairer be**

**O Joy that seekest me through pain**

**I cannot close my heart to thee**

**I trace the rainbow thro’ the rain**

**And feel the promise is not vain**

**That morn shall tearless be**

**O Cross that liftest up my head**

**I dare not ask to fly from thee**

**I lay in dust life’s glory dead**

**And from the ground there blossoms red**

**Life that shall endless be**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Life is uncertain and the future unclear, but the word of the Lord endures forever. The mission of God continues through even though we only know in part. Abide in love, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Victory in Jesus” #352 (vv.1-3)

**I heard an old, old story**

**How a Savior came from glory**

**How He gave His life on Calvary**

**To save a wretch like me**

**I heard about His groaning**

**Of His precious blood's atoning**

**Then I repented of my sins**

**And won the victory**

**O victory in Jesus**

**My Savior, forever**

**He sought me and bought me**

**With His redeeming blood**

**He loved me ere I knew Him**

**And all my love is due Him**

**He plunged me to victory**

**Beneath the cleansing flood**

**I heard about His healing**

**Of His cleansing pow’r revealing**

**How He made the lame to walk again**

**And caused the blind to see**

**And then I cried, Dear Jesus**

**Come and heal my broken spirit**

**And somehow Jesus came and bro’t**

**To me the victory**

**O victory in Jesus**

**My Savior, forever**

**He sought me and bought me**

**With His redeeming blood**

**He loved me ere I knew Him**

**And all my love is due Him**

**He plunged me to victory**

**Beneath the cleansing flood**

**I heard about a mansion**

**He has built for me in glory**

**And I heard about the streets of gold**

**Beyond the crystal sea**

**About the angels singing**

**And the old redemption story**

**And some sweet day I’ll sing up there**

**The song of victory**

**O victory in Jesus**

**My Savior, forever**

**He sought me and bought me**

**With His redeeming blood**

**He loved me ere I knew Him**

**And all my love is due Him**

**He plunged me to victory**

**Beneath the cleansing flood**

**\*Benediction**

L: Go into the world with joy. Tell the world Christ lives. Tell the world of God’s love. Carry God’s blessing, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.