**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**February 6, 2022**



*“So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink."*

*(Luke 5:7)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it

**P: The world, and those who live in it**

L: In him all things in heaven and on earth were created

**P: All things have been created through him and for him**

L: He is the head of the body, the church

**P: Jesus is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead**

L: Through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things

**P: For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” #2 (vv.1-4)

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Lord God almighty**

**Early in the morning my song shall rise to thee**

**Holy holy, holy**

**Merciful and mighty**

**God in three persons, blessed Trinity**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**All the saints adore Thee**

**Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea**

**Cherubim and seraphim are falling down before Thee**

**Which wert and art and evermore shalt be**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Though the darkness hide Thee**

**Though the eyes of sinful man Thy glory may not see**

**Only Thou art holy there is none beside Thee**

**Perfect in power, in love and purity**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Lord God almighty**

**All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea**

**Holy, holy, holy**

**Merciful and mighty**

**God in three persons, blessed Trinity**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, who created all people in your triune image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of people and cultures in this, your world. Enrich our lives by widening the circles of our fellowship and show us your presence in those who differ from us. Until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for the world. Guide us 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:** Isaiah 6:1-13

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

And he said, “Go and say to this people: ‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.’ Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.”

Then I said, “How long, O Lord?

And he said “Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; until the LORD sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled.” The holy seed is its stump.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Because of the mystery of the Word made flesh, God has caused a new light to shine in our hearts. See this knowledge so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified...

**P: O sovereign Lord, remember not our offenses, nor the offenses of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins. But from all blindness of heart, from pride, vainglory, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malic; and from all hardness of heart, deliver us. We ask that you make all wars cease in all the world, to give nations unity, peace, and concord; and to bestow freedom upon all people. We ask that you inspire us, in our several callings, to do the work which you give us to do with singleness of heart as your servants, and for the common good. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 138

P: **We give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth. They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD. For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away. The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Grace Greater than Our Sin” #84 (vv.1,2,4)

**Marvelous grace of our loving Lord**

**Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt**

**Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured**

**There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt**

**Grace, grace, God's grace**

**Grace that will pardon and cleanse within**

**Grace, grace, God's grace**

**Grace that is greater than all our sin**

**Sin and despair like the sea waves cold**

**Threaten the soul with infinite loss**

**Grace that is greater, yes grace untold**

**Points to the refuge, the mighty cross**

**Grace, grace, God's grace**

**Grace that will pardon and cleanse within**

**Grace, grace, God's grace**

**Grace that is greater than all our sin**

**Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace**

**Freely bestowed on all who believe**

**You that are longing to see his face**

**Will you this moment his grace receive?**

**Grace, grace, God's grace**

**Grace that will pardon and cleanse within**

**Grace, grace, God's grace**

**Grace that is greater than all our sin**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you--unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.

Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them--though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

**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**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson****:** Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who are partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

**Sermon:** “”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Thou Art Worthy” #66

**Thou art worthy, thou art worthy**

**Thou art worthy, O Lord**

**To receive glory, glory and honor**

**Glory and honor and power**

**For Thou hast created, hast all things created**

**Thou hast created all things**

**And for thy pleasure they are created**

**For Thou are worthy O Lord**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Do not cease in praying and giving so that the world will be full of God’s knowledge. Let us bear fruit that love of God may spread throughout the world. Give with joy and expectation, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” #468 (vv.1-4)

**I have decided to follow Jesus**

**I have decided to follow Jesus**

**I have decided to follow Jesus**

**No turning back, no turning back**

**The world behind me, the cross before me**

**The world behind me, the cross before me**

**The world behind me, the cross before me**

**No turning back, no turning back**

**Tho’ none go with me, still I will follow**

**Tho’ none go with me, still I will follow**

**Tho’ none go with me, still I will follow**

**No turning back, no turning back**

**Will you decide now, to follow Jesus?**

**Will you decide now, to follow Jesus?**

**Will you decide now, to follow Jesus?**

**No turning back, no turning back**

**\*Benediction**

L: Be imitators of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers. May your faith be known throughout the city, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.