**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

4th Sunday After Epiphany

January 29, 2023



*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God." (Matthew 5:8)*

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**4th Sunday After Epiphany**

**January 29, 2023**

**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:** “Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning” (vv.1-4)

**Brightest and best of the sons of the morning**

**Dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid**

**Star of the east, the horizon adorning**

**Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid**

**Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining**

**Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall**

**Angels adore him in slumber reclining**

**Maker and monarch and Savior of all**

**Say shall we yield him in costly devotion**

**Odors of Edom and offerings divine**

**Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean**

**Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine**

**Vainly we offer each ample oblation**

**Vainly with gifts would his favor secure**

**Richer by far is the heart's adoration**

**Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor**

**\*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**

**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:** 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 I Survey the Wondrous Cross” #239 (vv.1-4)

**When I survey the wondrous cross**

**On which the Prince of glory died**

**My richest gain I count but loss**

**And pour contempt on all my pride**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast**

**Save in the death of Christ, my God!**

**All the vain things that charm me most**

**I sacrifice them to his blood**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet**

**Sorrow and love flow mingled down**

**Did e'er such love and sorrow meet**

**Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine**

**That were a present far too small**

**Love so amazing, so divine**

**Demands my soul, my life, my all**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Gospel Lesson**:

**Sermon**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Hymn of Response:** “The Church’s One Foundation” #668 (vv.1-4)

**The church's one foundation**

**Is Jesus Christ, her Lord**

**She is his new creation**

**By water and the Word**

**From heav’n he came and sought her**

**To be his holy bride**

**With His own blood He bought her**

**And for her life He died**

**Elect from ev’ry nation**

**Yet one o'er all the earth**

**Her charter of salvation**

**One Lord, one faith, one birth**

**One holy name she blesses**

**Partakes one holy food**

**And to one hope she presses**

**With ev’ry grace endued**

**‘Mid toil and tribulation**

**And tumult of her war**

**She waits the consummation**

**Of peace forevermore**

**Till with the vision glorious**

**Her longing eyes are blest**

**And the great church victorious**

**Shall be the church at rest**

**Yet she on earth hath union**

**With the God the Three in One**

**And mystic sweet communion**

**With those whose rest is won**

**O happy ones and holy**

**Lord, give us grace that we**

**Like them, the meek and lowly**

**On high may dwell with thee**

**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**

**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**: “Be Exalted, O God” (2x)

**I will give thanks to Thee**

**O Lord, among the people**

**I will sing praises to Thee**

**Among the nations**

**For Thy steadfast love is great**

**Is great to the heavens**

**And Thy faithfulness**

**Thy faithfulness to the clouds**

**Be exalted, O God above the heavens**

**Let Thy glory be over all the earth**

**Be exalted, O God above the heavens**

**Let Thy glory be over all the earth**

**\*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.