**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 25, 2021**



*“One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ‘There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?’”*

*(John 6:8-9)*

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**Proper 12 (17)**

**July 25, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: All of creation will give thanks to you O Lord

**P: All your faithful ones shall bless you**

L: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom

**P: And tell of your power and mighty deeds**

L: The Lord upholds all who are falling

**P: And raises up all who are bowed down**

L: The Lord is just and full of compassion

**P: The Lord is near to all who call on God**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “O Worship the King” #64 (vv. 1-4)

**O worship the King all-glorious above**

**O gratefully sing His power and His love**

**Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days**

**Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise**

**O tell of His might and sing of His grace**

**Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space**

**His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form**

**And dark is His path on the wings of the storm**

**Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?**

**It breathes in the air, it shines in the light**

**It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain**

**And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain**

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail**

**In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail**

**Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end**

**Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Most Holy God, we trust that you are with us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. With deepest humility, we offer you our whole heart and daily lives. We give you thanks for all the favor you’ve bestowed on us to this present day. Consecrate us in your image and likeness, 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**

**Old Testament Scripture Lesson:** 2 Samuel 11:1-15

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king’s house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, “This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite.”

So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.”

So David sent word to Joab, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, “Go down to your house, and wash your feet.”

Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, “Uriah did not go down to his house,” David said to Uriah, “You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?"

Uriah said to David, “The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing.”

Then David said to Uriah, “Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back.”

So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, “Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: We try to make light of things that are not. The weight of which our Lord’s body was crushed underneath. With self-control imitate Christ so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P:** **God of mercy, God of Love, I want to do what you ask of me, in the way you ask me, for as long as you ask me, because you ask me. Lord enlighten my understanding, strengthen my will, purify my heart, and make me holy. Make me prudent in planning, courageous in taking risks. Make me patient in suffering, unassuming in prosperity. Let my conscience be clear, my conduct without fault, my speech blameless, and my life well-ordered around you. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 14

**P: Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good. The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God. They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one. Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the LORD? There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous. You would confound the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Just As I Am” #343 (vv.1,3,5)

**Just as I am, without one plea**

**But that Thy blood was shed for me**

**And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee**

**O Lamb of God, I come! I come**

**Just as I am, though tossed about**

**With many a conflict, many a doubt**

**Fighting and fears within without**

**O Lamb of God, I come, I come**

**Just as I am Thy love unknown**

**Hath broken ev’ry barrier down**

**Now to be Thine, yea Thine alone**

**O Lamb of God, I come, I come**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: John 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?”

He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.”

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?”

Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.”

Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.”

So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them.

The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.”

Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Fill My Cup, Lord” #458 (vv.2-3)

**There are millions in this world who are craving**

**The pleasures earthly things afford**

**But none can match the wondrous treasure**

**That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord**

**Fill my cup, Lord I lift it up Lord**

**Come and quench this thirsting of my soul**

**Bread of Heaven feed me til I want no more**

**Fill my cup; fill it up and make me whole**

**So, my brother, if the things this world gave you**

**Leave hungers that won’t pass away**

**My blessed Lord will come and save you**

**If you kneel to Him and humbly pray**

**Fill my cup, Lord I lift it up Lord**

**Come and quench this thirsting of my soul**

**Bread of Heaven feed me til I want no more**

**Fill my cup; fill it up and make me whole**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The Lord our God provides so many wonderful things that make our life worth living. As humble servants, we should show gratitude. Give in joy, 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**: “Rise Up, O Church of God” #724 (vv.1-4)

**Rise up, O church of God**

**Have done with lesser things**

**Give heart and soul and mind and strength**

**To serve the King of kings**

**Rise up, O church of God**

**From vain ambitions turn**

**Christ rose triumphant that your hearts**

**With nobler zeal might burn**

**Rise up, O church of God**

**His kingdom’s task embrace**

**Redress sin’s cruel consequences**

**Give justice larger place**

**Lift high the cross of Christ**

**Tread where His feet have trod**

**As followers of the Son of Man**

**Rise up, O church of God**

**\*Benediction**

L: To him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory throughout all generations. Point the world to Christ, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.