**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**March 21, 2021**



*“Jesus answered them, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.’”*

*(John 12:23-24)*

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*The mission of Saginaw First Free Methodist Church is to be faithful to God and to make known to all people everywhere God’s call to wholeness in Jesus Christ.*

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: God has made a new covenant with humanity

**P: Blessed are you, O Lord, teach us your law**

L: The laws of God are inside us, written on our hearts

**P: We will delight in God’s decrees more than riches**

L: God forgives our sin and restores our soul

**P: We will meditate on God’s precepts and focus on God’s way**

L: God speaks truth and teaches wisdom to us

**P: We will treasure God’s word in our heart, that we may not sin**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” #302 (vv.1-4)

**Breathe on me, Breath of God**

**Fill me with life anew**

**That I may love what Thou dost love**

**And do what Thou would do**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God**

**Until my heart is pure**

**Until with Thee, I will one will**

**To do and to endure**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God**

**Till I am wholly Thine**

**Until this earthly part of me**

**Glows with Thy fire divine**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God**

**So shall I never die**

**But live with Thee the perfect life**

**Of Thine eternity**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: God of suffering and glory, in Jesus Christ you reveal the way of life through the path of obedience. Inscribe your law in our hearts, that in life we may not stray from you, but may be your people. By being lifted up, you became the source of life for all people. Help us to look up to you, 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:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: In this season of Lent, when we reexamine our lives and find our faith is tested, do we find a clean heart and a right spirit inside us? As we remember God’s steadfast love and abundant mercy, let us pray…

**P: Everlasting God, you sent your son, Christ Jesus, into our world, that we may experience salvation. Christ Jesus gave up his life and sacrificed himself, that we may follow him and experience abundant life. We tend to protect ourselves and collect objects for our comfort. We tend to love our lives more than we love others. Give us strength to follow and serve you. May we be willing to give of ourselves that others may prosper for the sake of your kingdom. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 51

**P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Hallelujah! What a Savior!” #253 (vv.1,3,5)

**Man of sorrows what a name**

**For the Son of God, who came**

**Ruined sinners to reclaim**

**Hallelujah, what a Savior**

**Guilty, vile, and helpless we**

**Spot-less Lamb of God was He**

**Full atonement, can it be?**

**Hallelujah, what a Savior**

**When he comes, our glorious King**

**All his ransomed home to bring**

**Then anew this song we'll sing**

**Hallelujah, what a Savior**

**New Testament Scripture Lesson:** Hebrews 5:5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say--’ Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.”

Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “At the Name of Jesus” #277 (vv.1,3)

**At the name of Jesus ev'ry knee shall bow**

**Ev'ry tongue confess him King of glory now**

**'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord**

**Who from the beginning was the mighty Word**

**In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue**

**All that is not holy, all that is not true**

**Crown him as your Captain in temptation's hour**

**Let his will enfold you in its light and pow'r**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Our time, treasure, and talents are seeds we can sow to bear fruit for the kingdom of God. Follow Jesus beyond a quest for personal security to a passion for all human life. Give so all may receive the promises of eternal life, 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**

**\*Hymn:** “Lift High the Cross” #237 (vv.1,3,5)

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaims**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod**

**Our King victorious, Christ the Son of God**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaims**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**O Lord, once lifted on this glorious tree**

**As Thou has promised, draw men unto Thee**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaims**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**For Thy blest cross which doth for all atone**

**Creation’s praises rise before Thy throne**

**\*Benediction**

L: Jesus invites us to follow as disciples and servants, risking everything for the sake of the Gospel. This is our time to be a light on a hill. Reach out to the world with joy and gladness, go in peace to love and serve. Amen.