**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 13, 2022**



*“’As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.’"*

*(Luke 21:6)*

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)

**Proper 28 (33)**

**November 13, 2022**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L:    Fix your eyes on God’s commandments

**P:    We will praise God with sincerity as we learn of these decrees**

L:    We are people of God, created to love

**P:    We will love the Lord with our heart, soul, mind, and strength**

L:    We are people of God, determined to love

**P:    We will love our neighbors and treat them as we would be treated**

L:    Friends, believe the good news

**P:    We are saved by the Spirit through belief in the truth in Christ**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Stand Up and Bless the Lord” #54 (vv.1-5)

**Stand up, and bless the Lord**

**Ye people of His choice**

**Stand up, and bless the Lord your God**

**With heart, and soul, and voice**

**Tho' high above all praise**

**Above all blessing high**

**Who would not fear His holy Name**

**And laud and magnify?**

**O for the living flame**

**From His own altar brought**

**To touch our lips, our mind inspire**

**And wing to heav'n our thought**

**God is our strength and song**

**And His salvation ours**

**Then be His love in Christ proclaimed**

**With all our ransomed pow'rs**

**Stand up and bless the Lord**

**The Lord your God adore**

**Stand up, and bless His glorious Name**

**Henceforth for evermore**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scripture to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life. We look to heaven for grace and wisdom. Guide us to abundant life, 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 65:17-25

 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

 No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD-- and their descendants as well.

 Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Being entrusted with the way of life; May God’s grace enlighten our understanding, strengthen our will, purify our hearts, and make us holy...

**P:** **Lord of all history, steer the ship of my life to your quiet harbor, where I can be safe from the storms of sin and conflict. Show me the course I should take. Renew in me the gift of discernment, so that I can see the right direction in which I should go. Give me the strength and courage to choose the right course, even when the sea is rough and the future veiled. Teach me true peace and comfort comes from obedience to you. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 98

**P: O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory. The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” #436 (vv.1-4)

**My hope is built on nothing less**

**Than Jesus blood and righteousness**

**I dare not trust the sweetest frame**

**But wholly lean on Jesus’ name**

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**When darkness seems to hide his face**

**I rest on his unchanging grace**

**In every high and stormy gale**

**My anchor holds within the veil**

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**His oath, His covenant, His blood**

**Support me in the whelming flood**

**When all around my soul gives way**

**He then is all my hope and stay**

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**When he shall come with trumpet sound**

**O may I then in Him be found**

**Dressed in His righteousness alone**

**Faultless to stand before the throne**

**On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

**All other ground is sinking sand**

 **Second Scripture Lesson****:** 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

 Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you.

 This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work.

 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

**Special Music:** Don Gingrich

 **Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Luke 21:5-19

 When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

 They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?”

 And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them. When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.”

 Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven. But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name.

 This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict.

 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

**Sermon:** “”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “You Are My All in All”

**You are my Strength when I am weak**

**You are the Treasure that I seek**

**You are my All in all**

**Seeking You as a precious Jewel**

**Lord to give up I’d be a fool**

**You are my All in all**

**Jesus, Lamb of God**

**worthy is Your Name**

**Jesus, Lamb of God**

**worthy is Your Name**

**Taking my cross my sin my shame**

**Rising again I praise Your Name**

**You are my All in all**

**When I fall down You lift me up**

**When I am dry You fill my cup**

**You are my All in all**

**Jesus, Lamb of God**

**worthy is Your Name**

**Jesus, Lamb of God**

**worthy is Your Name**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The timeless God has made a foundation for us to this day. The brave souls who overcame this life and cheer us on from the next. Courageously give to prepare the way for the next generation, 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**

**Greece:** The Thessaloniki FM Church Anagenesis includes Greek members and over 20 other nationalities. Its primary focus is on sharing Christ with the thousands of Muslim immigrants seeking a new life in Europe. Since the 2015 refugee crisis in Europe began, more than 50 have been baptized, and other new believers are currently being discipled and prepared for baptism. The church team serves tirelessly at their meeting place in Thessaloniki. They also visit refugee camps, holding Bible studies and visiting homes.

Pray for leaders of every language to step up to serve their language group, resources and personnel to assist with the ongoing discipleship demand. The church is also looking for a new location for the church and ministry center along with a restart of the Greek ministry, which has been overshadowed by the outreach to Muslims.

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Lead On, O King Eternal” #641 (vv.1-3)

 **Lead on, O King Eternal the day of march is come**

**Hence-forth in fields of conquest Thy tents shall be our home**

**Thro’ days of preparation Thy grace has made us strong**

**And now, O King Eternal, we lift our battle song**

**Lead on, O King Eternal, till sin’s fierce war shall cease**

**And holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace**

**For not with swords’ loud clashing nor roll of stirring drums**

**With deeds of love and mercy the heav’nly kingdom comes**

**Lead on, O King Eternal we follow not with fears**

**For gladness breaks like morning wher-e’er Thy face appears**

**Thy cross is lifted o’er us we journey in its light**

**Thy crown awaits the conquest lead on, O God of might**

**\*Benediction**

L: Being made strong with God’s endless love, be eager to put your faith into action. We have been filled with the Spirit, united as God’s people. With saintly determination, go in peace to love and serve. Amen.