**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 18, 2020**



*“Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’ They answered, ‘The emperors.’ Then he said to them, ‘Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.’ When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.” (Matthew 22:20-22)*

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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: The full glory of God is too powerful for us to experience

**P: The one we call God is beyond our comprehension**

L: We look for favor in God’s sight

**P: Almighty God, show us your holy ways**

L: God’s presence goes with us, and gives us rest

**P: Let us go where God leads us, not where we choose**

L: May the reports of our love be heard in earth and heaven

**P: We will seek God’s glory and not our own pleasure**

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

**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**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: God of glory, God of love, You have called and chosen us to be your people. We long for your comfort and your presence, so we know our faith is not in vain. Remind us that we serve the Living God, whose image we are made. Teach us to see your image in all people, as we pray together 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:** Exodus 33:12-23

 Moses said to the LORD, “See, you have said to me, ‘Bring up this people’; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, ‘I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.’ Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.”

 He said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

 And he said to him, “If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.”

 The LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.”

 Moses said, “Show me your glory, I pray.”

 And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, ‘The LORD’; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,” he said, “you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.”

 And the LORD continued, “See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Creator God made mankind in God’s image. All people carry this glorious image inside them. But we often prioritize money and wealth above others wellbeing, which disallows others to receive their fair share. For the times we restrict others benefits, let us repent…

**P: Out of the mouth comes the overflow of the heart, and our actions reveal what kingdom we serve. Even though your image is stamped into every piece of creation, we so often prioritize our own will. When we do not understand your will, we comfort ourselves with more wealth. When we do not focus on your call to humbly serve the world, we seek greater entitlement. We sense your call to service, but our lack of creativity or willful ignorance allows us to serve our self-interests. We are not content or joyful with what we’ve been provided. Give us greater vision and a greater desire to serve. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 99

**P: The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble! The LORD sits enthroned; let the earth quake! The LORD is great in Zion; God is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is God! Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Holy is God! Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on God’s name. They cried to the LORD, and God answered them. God spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept God’s decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. O LORD our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.**

**\*Hymn of Affirmation:** “Abide with Me” #584 (v.1)

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide**

**The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide**

**When other helpers fail and comforts flee**

**Help of the helpless, O abide with me**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

 And you became imitators of us and 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 in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it.

 For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Matthew 22:15-22

 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?”

 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius.

 Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?”

 They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

 When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**\*Hymn of Response:** “Faith Is the Victory” #446 (v.2)

**His banner over us is love**

**Our sword the Word of God**

**We tread the road the saints above**

**With shouts of triumph trod**

**By faith, they like a whirlwind’s breath**

**Swept on o’er every field**

**The faith by which they conquered death**

**Is still our shining shield**

**Faith is the victory!**

**Faith is the victory!**

**O glorious victory**

**That overcomes the world**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Tainted religion prioritizes money, but we cannot worship God and mammon. Seek to share the fruits of God’s creation with all as we partner in the Kingdom of God. Give to lessen the iniquities among us, 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**: “Revive Us Again” #719 (v.4)

**Revive us again**

**Fill each heart with Thy love**

**May each soul be rekindled**

**With fire from above**

**Hallelujah! Thine the glory**

**Hallelujah! Amen**

**Hallelujah! Thine the glory**

**Revive us again**

**\*Benediction**

L: God’s glory lives inside you as the Spirit indwells you. Be imitators of the Lord, bringing abundant life to all people. Labor for the benefit of all, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.