**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 2, 2022**



*“The Lord replied, ‘If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.’"*

*(Luke 17:6)*

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**Proper 22 (27)**

**October 2, 2022**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: God calls us to seek wisdom from above

**P: We long to hear God’s Word spoken to our hearts**

L: God’s bright and holy truth is to be our pathway

**P: We long to learn the ways of wisdom and righteousness**

L: A Spirit-filled life is God’s desire for us

**P: We long to live lives of holiness and light**

L: God grants God’s wisdom generously to all who ask

**P: Let us worship in wisdom and truth**

“Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I Know” #138 (vv. 1-3)

**There have been names that I have loved to hear**

**But never has there been a name so dear**

**To this heart of mine, as the name divine**

**The precious, precious name of Jesus**

**Jesus is the sweetest name I know**

**And He’s just the same as His lovely name**

**And that’s the reason why I love Him so**

**Oh, Jesus is the sweetest name I know**

**There is no name in earth or heav’n above**

**That we should give such honor and such love**

**As the blessed name, let us all acclaim**

**That wondrous, glorious name of Jesus**

**Jesus is the sweetest name I know**

**And He’s just the same as His lovely name**

**And that’s the reason why I love Him so**

**Oh, Jesus is the sweetest name I know**

**And some day I shall see Him face to face**

**To thank and praise Him for His wondrous grace**

**Which He gave to me, when He made me free**

**The blessed Son of God called Jesus**

**Jesus is the sweetest name I know**

**And He’s just the same as His lovely name**

**And that’s the reason why I love Him so**

**Oh, Jesus is the sweetest name I know**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: God of peace, give us strength and courage to get our priorities straight, help us to seek your kingdom first. Help us to live faithfully and joyfully in the world, and to be friends with the people you call us to serve. Help us also to remember that our best relationship is the one we have with 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.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Lamentations 1:1-6

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal. She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies.

Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations, and finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter.

Her foes have become the masters, her enemies prosper, because the LORD has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe. From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Our Creator and sustainer, we confess that we are not always strong like the trees planted by the water’s edge. Sometimes we are weak and indecisive. Seek restoration, so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P:** **Teach me, O Lord, to be sweet and gentle in all the events of life; in disappointments, in the thoughtfulness of others, in the insincerity of those I trusted, in the unfaithfulness of those on whom I relied. Let me put myself aside, to think of the happiness of others. Teach me to profit by the suffering that comes across my path. Let me use my suffering that it may strengthen me, not harden nor embitter me; that it may make me patient, not irritable, narrow, haughty and overbearing. May no one be less good for having come within my influence. No one less pure, less noble for having been a fellow traveler with me. May our life be lived in the supernatural, full of power for good, and strong in its purpose of sanctity. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 1

**P: Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Wonderful Grace of Jesus” #360 (vv.1-3)

**Wonderful grace of Jesus,**

**Greater than all my sin;**

**How shall my tongue describe it,**

**Where shall its praise begin?**

**Taking away my burden,**

**Setting my spirit free;**

**For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.**

**Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,**

**Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;**

**Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,**

**All-sufficient grace for even me!**

**Broader than the scope of my transgressions,**

**Greater far than all my sin and shame;**

**Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus,**

**Praise His Name!**

**Wonderful grace of Jesus,**

**Reaching to all the lost,**

**By it I have been pardoned,**

**Saved to the uttermost;**

**Chains have been torn asunder,**

**Giving me liberty;**

**For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.**

**Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,**

**Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;**

**Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,**

**All-sufficient grace for even me!**

**Broader than the scope of my transgressions,**

**Greater far than all my sin and shame;**

**Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus,**

**Praise His Name!**

**Wonderful grace of Jesus**

**Reaching the most reviled**

**By its transforming power**

**Making me God’s dear child**

**Purchasing peace and heaven**

**For all eternity**

**For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me**

**Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,**

**Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;**

**Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,**

**All-sufficient grace for even me!**

**Broader than the scope of my transgressions,**

**Greater far than all my sin and shame;**

**Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus,**

**Praise His Name!**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God--whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did--when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.

For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.

Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

**Communion**

**MINISTER: THE INVITATION**

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who live in love and peace with

your neighbors and who intend to lead a new life, following the commandments

of God and walking in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy

sacrament to your comfort; and humbly kneeling, make your honest confession

to Almighty God.

**IN UNISON: THE GENERAL CONFESSION**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all

people, we confess that we have sinned, and we are deeply grieved as we

remember the wickedness of our past lives. We have sinned against You, Your

holiness and Your love, and we deserve only Your indignation and anger.

We sincerely repent, and we are genuinely sorry for all wrongdoing and every

failure to do the things we should. Our hearts are grieved, and we acknowledge

that we are hopeless without Your grace.

Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your son, our Savior, Jesus

Christ, who died for us.

Forgive us.

Cleanse us.

Give us strength to serve and please You in newness of life and to honor and praise

Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

O Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who with great mercy has promised

forgiveness to all who turn to You with hearty repentance and true faith, have

mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from our sins, make us strong and faithful in

all goodness and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CONGREGATION: THE COLLECT**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom

no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE SANCTUS**

It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times and

in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we

honor and adore Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying,

**CONGREGATION: THE SANCTUS (CONTINUED)**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord, most high. Amen

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

We do not come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, with self-confidence and

pride, trusting in our own righteousness, but we trust in Your great and many

mercies. We are not worthy to gather the crumbs from under Your table. But You,

O Lord, are unchanging in Your mercy and Your nature is love; grant us, therefore,

God of mercy, God of grace, so to eat at this Your table that we may receive in

spirit and in truth the body of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and the merits of His

shed blood, so that we may live and grow in His likeness and, being washed and

cleansed through His most precious blood, we may evermore live in Him and He

in us. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who gave in love Your only Son, Jesus Christ,

to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who by His sacrifice, offered

once for all, did provide a full, perfect, and sufficient atonement for the sins of the whole world,

we come now to Your table in obedience to Your Son, Jesus Christ, who in His holy gospel

commanded us to continue a perpetual memory of His precious death until He comes

again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we humbly ask, and grant that we, receiving this bread and this cup,

as He commanded and in the memory of His passion and death, may partake of His most blessed body and blood.

In the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

His disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In like manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of

this, all of you, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of

sins; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” Amen.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting

life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed upon Him in your heart, by faith with

thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life.

Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s blood was shed for you and be thankful.

**MINISTER: THE BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love

of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Spirit, be yours now and forever. Amen.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’?

Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’?

Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’”

**Sermon:**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “The Steadfast Love of the Lord” (2x)

**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases**

**God’s mercies never come to an end**

**They are new every morning, new every morning**

**Great is your faithfulness, O Lord**

**Great is your faithfulness**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The Holy Spirit guides us in the way to lives that bear the fruit that is pleasing to God; lives full of mercy and compassion. Be wise and just in how we live and steward the resources we keep. Sacrifice to God, 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**: “To God Be the Glory” #36 (vv.1-3)

**To God be the glory, great things he hath done!**

**So loved he the world that he gave us his Son**

**Who yielded his life an atonement for sin**

**And opened the life-gate that all may go in**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the earth hear his voice**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the people rejoice**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son**

**And give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,**

**To every believer the promise of God;**

**The vilest offender who truly believes,**

**That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the earth hear his voice**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the people rejoice**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son**

**And give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**Great things he hath taught us**

**Great things he hath done**

**And great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son**

**But purer, and higher, and greater will be**

**Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the earth hear his voice**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord**

**Let the people rejoice**

**O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son**

**And give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**\*Benediction**

L: Let the majesty of the Father be the light by which you walk, the compassion of the Son be the love by which you walk, the presence of the Spirit be the power by which you walk, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.