**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 18, 2022**



*"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. (Luke 16:10)*

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**PROPER 20 (25)**

**September 18, 2022**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

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

L: We praise You, O God, we exult you our Savior

**P: We acclaim you as Lord**

L: Sing to the Lord a new song

**P: O God, you are my God, I will ever praise You**

L: I behold your power and glory in the sanctuary

**P: All creation worships You, heaven and earth are full of your glory**

L: May the praise of God be in the mouths of the humble

**P: Because You’re love is better than life**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Thou Art Worthy” #66 (2x)

**Thou art worthy, thou art worthy**

**Thou art worthy, O Lord**

**To receive glory, glory and honor**

**Glory and honor and power**

**For Thou hast created, hast all things created**

**Thou hast created all things**

**And for thy pleasure they are created**

**For Thou are worthy O Lord**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Grant us, God of love and God of mercy, that we not be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure. Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him. Draw us and the whole world unto 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:** Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

 My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land, “Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?” “Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?”

 “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”

 For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

 O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

**Prayer of Confession**

L: Lord, by your grace, enlighten our understanding, strengthen our will, purify our hearts, and make us holy...

**P:** **O Lord, I place myself in your hands and dedicate myself to you. I pledge myself to do your will in all things. To love the Lord God with all my heart, all my soul, all my strength. Not to steal. To relieve the poor. Not to covet. To prefer nothing but the love of Christ. Not to bear false witness. To honor all persons. Not to return evil for evil. To clothe the naked. Not to do to another what I would not wish done to myself. To help in times of trouble. To put my trust in God. To fear the day of judgement. To desire eternal life with spiritual longing. To ask forgiveness of my sins daily. To keep constant watch over my actions. To remember that God sees me everywhere. To call upon Christ for defense against evil thoughts that arise in my heart. May I be at peace with You, O God, and my neighbor. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Apostle’s Creed

**P: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried. He descended into hades, the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.** **From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “I Will Praise Him” #119 (vv.1,3-5)

**When I saw the cleansing fountain**

**Open wide for all my sin**

**I obeyed the Spirit’s wooing**

**When He said, wilt thou be clean**

**I will praise Him! I will praise Him**

**Praise the Lamb for sinners slain**

**Give Him glory, all ye people**

**For His blood can wash away each stain**

**Then God’s fire upon the alter**

**Of my heart was set aflame**

**I shall never cease to praise Him**

**Glory, glory to His name**

**I will praise Him! I will praise Him**

**Praise the Lamb for sinners slain**

**Give Him glory, all ye people**

**For His blood can wash away each stain**

**Blessed be the name of Jesus**

**I’m so glad He took me in**

**He’s forgiven my transgressions**

**He has cleansed my heart from sin**

**I will praise Him! I will praise Him**

**Praise the Lamb for sinners slain**

**Give Him glory, all ye people**

**For His blood can wash away each stain**

**Glory, glory to the Father**

**Glory, glory to the Son**

**Glory, glory to the Spirit**

**Glory to the Three in One**

**I will praise Him! I will praise Him**

**Praise the Lamb for sinners slain**

**Give Him glory, all ye people**

**For His blood can wash away each stain**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** 1 Timothy 2:1-7

 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.

 This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all--this was attested at the right time.

 For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 16:1-13

 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’

 Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’

 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

 He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’

 Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’

 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

**Sermon** “”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “More Love to Thee” #463 (vv.1-3)

**More love to Thee, oh Christ, more love to Thee!**

**Hear Thou the prayer I make on bended knee.**

**This is my earnest plea**

**More love, oh Christ, to Thee**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

**Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest**

**Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best.**

**This all my prayer shall be**

**More love, oh Christ to Thee**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

**Then shall my latest breath whisper Thy praise**

**This be the parting cry my heart shall raise**

**Still all my prayer shall be**

**More love, oh Christ to Thee**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

**More love to Thee, more love to Thee!**

**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**

**Brazil:** In 1928 Daniel Nishizumi, a Free Methodist minister, traveled from Japan to Brazil at his own expense to do missionary work among the Japanese living there. The first FM church was organized in 1936. Ten years later the first board-appointed missionaries arrived, Misses Lucile Damon and Helen Voller. They, and those who followed, worked with both the Japanese and the Brazilians. A seminary was built in Mairipora and later relocated in 1965 in the city of São Paulo. Because of the differences in language and culture, the churches separated into two conferences in 1966.

Pray for the continued growth of both Brazilian and Nikkei Conferences through evangelism, discipleship, church planting. Pray for fledgling churches and the wise, courageous leadership of each conference as they navigate the increasingly secular ideologies.

**\*Closing Hymn**: “We’ve a Story to Tell the Nations” #698 (vv.1-4)

**We’ve a story to tell to the nations**

**That shall turn their hearts to the right**

**A story of truth and mercy**

**A story of peace and light**

**A story of peace and light**

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning**

**And the dawning to noonday bright**

**And Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth**

**The kingdom of love and light**

**We’ve a song to be sung to the nations**

**That shall lift their hearts to the Lord**

**A song that shall conquer evil**

**And shatter the spear and sword**

**And shatter the spear and sword**

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning**

**And the dawning to noonday bright**

**And Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth**

**The kingdom of love and light**

**We’ve a message to give to the nations**

**That the Lord who reigneth above**

**Has sent us His Son to save us**

**And show us that God is love**

**And show us that God is love**

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning**

**And the dawning to noonday bright**

**And Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth**

**The kingdom of love and light**

**We’ve a Savior to show the nations**

**Who the path of sorrow hath trod**

**That all the world’s great peoples**

**Might come to the truth of God**

**Might come to the truth of God**

**For the darkness shall turn to dawning**

**And the dawning to noonday bright**

**And Christ’s great kingdom shall come on earth**

**The kingdom of love and light**

**\*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.