

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 2, 2020

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of compassion, whose provision for us is marvelous beyond all expectation, feed us now. When our resources seem as nothing, multiply among us a generous expectancy that makes it possible to share the little we have. Direct our vision beyond ourselves, that we may be participants in Your work of feeding all humankind.
AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

Translator: Jane M. Campbell; Author: Matthias Claudius (1782)

Tune: WIR PFLÜGEN

We plow the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter,
The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine,
And soft refreshing rain.

He only is the Maker
Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star;
The wind and waves obey him,
By him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, his children,
He gives our daily bread. **[Refrain]**

Refrain:

All good gifts around us
Are sent from heav'n above;
Then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord
For all his love.

We thank you, then, O Father,
For all things bright and good:
The seed-time and the harvest,
Our life, our health, our food;
No gifts have we to offer
For all your love imparts,
But that which you desire now:
Our humble, thankful hearts! **[Refrain]**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: "Self-Control"

CALL TO CONFESSION

All of us need times of wrestling with God over issues in our lives. These moments of confession offer us one such opportunity. Bring your own distress to this time of confessing the sin in which all of us have a part.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of justice and righteousness, whose compassion for humankind was expressed so vividly in Jesus of Nazareth, we bring to You our sorrow and anguish that we have not followed faithfully in the footsteps of Christ. Unkindness and deceit are all around us, and we have sometimes joined in their destructive ways. We waste resources You have entrusted to us. We cause others to stumble and fall. Take away our wickedness, O God, and restore Your covenant among us.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God is merciful, patient, kind and loving. In Christ, our brokenness finds healing, and relationships are mended and strengthened. God feeds us in ways beyond our knowing and prompts our generosity. Know the glory of God surrounds us here as we worship. Celebrate the refreshment God offers.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 145:8-21 Matthew 14:13-21

Psalm 145:8-21 (NIV)

- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.
- ⁹ The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.
- ¹⁰ All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you.
- ¹¹ They will tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,
- ¹² so that all men may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- ¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.
- ¹⁴ The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.
- ¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.
- ¹⁶ You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
- ¹⁷ The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made.
- ¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
- ¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.
- ²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.
- ²¹ My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

Matthew 14:13-21 (NIV)

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.

¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said.

¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.

²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

SERMON: "Picnic Time"

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom, come. Thy will be done, on 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 thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

BENEDICTION

Jesus blessed and broke the food and shared, and there was enough for all. Go forward in confidence and trust; God's Spirit goes with you to teach and lead.

CLOSING HYMN: "Standing On the Promises"

Author: *Russell Kelso Carter (1886)*

Tune: *[Standing on the promises of Christ my King]*

1 Standing on the promises of Christ my king,
Through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear
assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

3 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

4 Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God. **[Refrain]**

Refrain:

Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Savior;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

The History of We Plow the Fields and Scatter

This harvest hymn of thanksgiving, "We plow the fields, and scatter," was translated from the German hymn of Matthias Claudius by Miss Jane Montgomery Campbell in 1861. She was the daughter of an English clergyman, and he was the son of a German clergyman. Claudius lived to be seventy-four years old and died in 1815, two years before Miss Campbell was born.

This hymn was freely translated from a portion of a longer poem of seventeen verses with chorus. It appeared first in a sketch called Paul Erdmann's Feast. It was represented as the song that was sung at Paul's home by the peasants after the harvest was over.

As may be inferred from this hymn, there was a wholesome cheer in the author's writings as well as in his life, and this in spite of the fact that he was not unaccustomed to hardships. Menzel has said of him that his genius never reached its fullest development because he was constantly harassed by his poverty.

But he was a man of great piety, and his influence for good was very considerable. He chose to dwell upon the blessings with which God enriches us, and from his very heart he sang:

*"We thank Thee, then, O Father,
For all things bright and good."*

EVENING SONG

Poem by Matthias Claudius (1740-1815)

(Margaete Münsterberg, ed., trans. A Harvest of German Verse. 1916.)

THE MOON is risen, beaming,
The golden stars are gleaming
So brightly in the skies;
The hushed, black woods are dreaming,
The mists, like phantoms seeming,
From meadows magically rise.

How still the world reposes,
While twilight round it closes,
So peaceful and so fair!
A quiet room for sleeping,
Into oblivion steeping
The day's distress and sober care.

Look at the moon so lonely!
One half is shining only,
Yet she is round and bright;
Thus oft we laugh unknowing
At things that are not showing,
That still are hidden from our sight.

We, with our proud endeavour,
Are poor vain sinners ever,
There's little that we know.

Frail cobwebs we are spinning,
Our goal we are not winning,
But straying farther as we go.

God, make us see Thy glory,
Distrust things transitory,
Delight in nothing vain!
Lord, here on earth stand by us,
To make us glad and pious,
And artless children once again!

Grant that, without much grieving,
This world we may be leaving
In gentle death at last.
And then do not forsake us,
But into heaven take us,
Lord God, oh, hold us fast!

Lie down, my friends, reposing,
Your eyes in God's name closing.
How cold the night-wind blew!
Oh God, Thine anger keeping,
Now grant us peaceful sleeping,
And our sick neighbour too.

The History of "Standing On the Promises"

Russel Kelso Carter (11-18-1849, Baltimore, MD to 8-23-1928, Catonsville, MD)

Russel Kelso Carter was a professor in the Pennsylvania Military College of Chester. While there he was licensed to preach by the Methodist Episcopal Church. He became very active in leading camp meetings and revivals. After failing health forced him to abandon this work, he studied and became a medical doctor as well as a writer. He wrote novels as well as hymns.

Although Carter was a professed Christian most of his life, it wasn't until a crisis with his natural heart that he began to understand the reality and power of Bible promises. At age 30, his health was in critical condition and the physicians could do no more for him. Carter turned to God for help and healing.

He knelt and made a promise that healing or no, his life was finally and forever, fully consecrated to the service of the Lord. It was from that moment that the written Word of God became alive to Carter. He began to stand upon the promises of healing, determining to believe no matter what his physical condition, no matter how he felt. Over the course of the next several months his strength returned, and his heart was completely healed! Carter lived another healthy 49 years.

The hymn Carter had written several years before his healing miracle became more than words and music to him. *Standing on the Promises* became an integral part of his life.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRIEFSHARE: August 4, 11, 18 and 25; September 1 and 8. Meetings are in the Grove building at 6:45 PM. Meetings are stand-alone. It is not necessary to be able to attend every meeting. Spread the word about GriefShare.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM: **Items Needed:** *Honey Nut Cheerios, 64 oz. Jars or Boxes of 100% Juice, Pizza Sauce, Raisins (any size), Applesauce Cups.* Items can be dropped off Tuesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 PM at St. David's Lutheran Church.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please send your prayer requests directly to Pastor Scott either by text (717-880-6082) or e-mail (pscott8283@comcast.net) prior to Sunday, so that he can lift them up during worship.

CARING FOR OUR OWN OFFERING (Month of August): There are times when personal finances are stretched to the limit, and during these times of unemployment and business closures, paying the bills can become critical for a family. We want to extend our church family's compassion and care by lending a helping hand in time of need to our members. Please give your donations to our Treasurer Harley Hartman or Linda Huggens before or after services. Either way, please indicate that the monies are for the *Caring For Our Own* offering.

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS: Because of the current COVID-19 situation, the church's mailbox does not get checked daily as in the past. As a safety precaution, rather than mail your offerings to the church, we would ask that you mail them directly to our church treasurer, Harley Hartman. Please include one Offering Envelop with your mailed checks indicating the manner in which you would like to have your funds applied. Harley's Mailing Address: **Harley Hartman, 2195 Blackrock Road, Hanover, PA 17331**

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of St. David's!
