

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 8, 2020

10:00 AM

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal God, whose rule extends through all times and places, nudge us to remain alert and watchful and ready for each moment's possibilities. Keep us from weariness, lest we miss Christ's presence and the opportunity to bear witness to the Spirit's movement among us. May our prayers and praise and service glorify you today and always. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING"

Verse 1

"Wake, awake, for night is flying,"
The watchmen on the heights are crying;
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight hears the welcome voices
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Oh, where are you ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes: Awake!
Thy lamps with gladness take!
Alleluia!
With bridal care thyself prepare
To meet the Bridegroom who is near."

Verse 2

Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and on her heart new joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord comes down all-glorious
and strong in grace, in truth victorious.
Her star is ris'n, her light is come!
Now come, thy blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own son.

Hail! Hosanna!
Thy joyful call we answer all;
And follow to the nuptial hall.

Verse 3

Now let all the heavens adore thee,
Let men and angels sing before thee
with harp and cymbals' clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, dwelling with the choir immortal,
we gather round thy radiant throne.
No vision ever brought,
No ear has ever caught,
such great glory;
Therefore will we in eternally
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Often, we gather in solemn assemblies, hoping that God will overlook our true intentions. We expect to go through our usual routines without being challenged or changed. God sees through our pretensions and invites us to face ourselves and the nature of our sin. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

If sin means cutting ourselves off from You and being unprepared to respond to Your presence, surely, we have sinned. Our lamps are not trimmed; our lives are not ready for Your trumpet call. We have not listened well or encouraged one another in the faith. The distraction of many things has kept us from meditation and prayer. We are witnesses against ourselves, for we have vowed our loyalty and then have gone our own way. Merciful God, we seek Your forgiveness.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God brought our spiritual ancestors out of bondage and protected them along their way. We believe God is eager to free us from all that imprisons us. Our days

on earth are a trust from God, and we serve God best by investing our time in learning and living God's intentions for us. It is God's will that we live in harmony with one another, that we learn to love all God's children. God extends full pardon to us. Praise God for forgiveness and a second chance.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 78:1–7, Matthew 25:1–13

PSALM 78

A maskil of Asaph

¹ My people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth.
² I will open my mouth with a parable;
I will utter hidden things, things from of old—
³ things we have heard and known,
things our ancestors have told us.
⁴ We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach their children,
⁶ so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.
⁷ Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.

MATTHEW 25:1–13

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

¹ "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

⁹ "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

¹² "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

¹³ "Therefore KEEP WATCH, because you do not know the day or the hour.

SERMON: "Be Prepared"

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, for ever. AMEN

CLOSING HYMN: "THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE"

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine.
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine.
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

[BRIDGE]

Everywhere I go,
I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go,

I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go.
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

[BRIDGE]

This little light of mine.
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine.
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine.
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

[BRIDGE]

We will sing in peace.
We will sing in harmony.
We will sing in peace.
We will sing in harmony.
We will sing in peace.
We will sing in harmony.
We will sing in peace,
We will sing in harmony.

This little light of mine.
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine.
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine.
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine. let it shine. let it shine.

Let it shine around the world,
We're gonna let it shine.
Let it shine around the world,
We're gonna let it shine.
Let it shine around the world,

We're gonna let it shine.
Let it shine around the world!
Let it shine,
We're gonna shine,
We're gonna shine,
We're gonna shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

BENEDICTION:

The world seeks light amid all its shadows;
Let your lamps burn brightly with good news.

We have received the light of God's love;
We want that light to shine through us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New E-mail Addresses:

Church Office (Aimee): office@stdavidsucc.com

Media (Sally): media@stdavidsucc.com

Pastor Sager (Pastor Sager): pastor@stdavidsucc.com

Thank you!

BELL PRACTICE: Mondays, 7:00 PM in the Grove building.

GRIEFSHARE: Tuesday evenings, 7:00 PM in the Grove building. All are welcome!

HOMEWOOD AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Throughout November. \$3/person or \$5/couple.

CANNED CORN FOR THANKSGIVING DAY DINNERS: We collected 232 cans of corn for New Hope Thanksgiving Dinners. Thank you for your donations!

BLANKETS PLUS OFFERING: Church World Service (CWS)
Offering Date is NOVEMBER 15 (*Donations will be accepted throughout all of November*). In 2019, 154,000 blankets were distributed worldwide by Church World Service.

FEED-a-FRIEND MARATHON: The Marathon benefits New Hope Ministries and can be heard on Happy FM 95.3, Rocky FM 98.5 and WHVR AM 1280. We will be collecting canned goods and/or cash donations

from November 15 through December 6 (Last day to donate, December 6). Every \$1 buys 3 cans and \$8 buys a case of canned goods. Broadcast times: Thursday, December 10, Noon to 8:00 PM & Friday, December 11, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

“CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS”—New Hope Ministries: Christmas Gifts

We will be collecting various toys and household items to be distributed by New Hope Ministries for needy families in our area. Lists of items will be available for you at church services and online (www.stdavidsucc.com/announcements). As well as toys for children, there is especially a need for teen items. *No clothing items are being collected.* Many clients do not have full-size kitchen appliances, so we are focusing on providing small kitchen appliances such as crock pots and toaster ovens which are essential for them. Many thanks for your thoughtfulness in making Christmas so much brighter for those in our area. Collections can be made at the church Sunday mornings. Deadline for donations will be Sunday, November 30.

ANNUAL MITTEN TREE: The Council of Churches has informed us that they have many hats, mittens and scarves on hand this year. We will not be collecting those items during this Advent season. Instead, we will be collecting items for Homewood Skilled Care residents. **Items Needed:** Christmas Cards, Unscented Body Lotion, Cube-style Tissue Boxes (Christmas-themed, if possible). Collection of items will begin Sunday, December 6. Thank you!

CARD SHOWER: Nancy Garrett will be celebrating her 90th birthday on November 26. **Nancy’s address:** Nancy Garrett, Cottage 114, 425 Westminster Avenue, Hanover, PA 17331

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: Christmas Poinsettias, \$11/each. We will be using red poinsettias again. Order by December 6. Make checks payable to St. David’s UCC and write “Poinsettias” in the memo section of your check. An order form can be downloaded by clicking on the poinsettia photo on the church website in the announcement section: <https://www.stdavidsucc.com/announcements>

CLEAN GALLON-SIZED PLASTIC MILK/JUICE CONTAINERS WANTED: The Music and Worship Committee is collecting gallon-sized plastic milk/juice bottles for making luminaries to be placed around the church on Christmas Eve. We cannot drink that much milk ourselves until Christmas and we need your help. Bring your bottles to church and give them to Nancy Costello. Thank you!

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

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERINGS: If you would like to mail your offerings to the church, please mail them to Harley Hartman, 2195 Blackrock Rd, Hanover, PA 17331 and include one offering envelope indicating the manner in which you would like to have your funds applied. Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of St. David’s!

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (HACC)

HACC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

PAL — Packing, Serving, If Anyone Would Like to Volunteer For Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, a Few More Individuals are Needed to Work in the Kitchen.

Changing Lives Shelter — AM And PM Shifts

Meals On Wheels — Runners And Drivers

Front Desk —Tues, Thurs, And Fri Reception Help.

Cleaning— Wed

HACC ITEMS NEEDED:

PAL: Spaghetti Sauce, Ranch and Italian Dressing, Sauerkraut, Stove Top Chicken Stuffing, Individual Fruit Cups, Butter, Breadcrumbs

Changing Lives Shelter: Large Debris Trash Bags, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Medium Size Exam Type Gloves, Disinfectant Wipes/Sprays

HACC General (Benefits All Ministries): Lysol Spray/ Disinfecting Spray

Meals on Wheels: Prayer Cards/ Words of Encouragement for Our Shut-Ins, Large Print Word Find or Crossword Activity Books, (Old Extra-Large Print Devotion Books. We Currently Have 10 Books and Need 30 More to Reach All Our Shut-ins.

Clothing Bank: New Children's Socks

COMMUNITY AID UPDATE: Community Aid will be removing the bins from our church property. They are currently accepting donations of *clothing, shoes, toys, books* and *jewelry* at the store on Baltimore St. They will give us \$.06 per pound for donations dropped off at Community Aid on Baltimore St., Hanover. For the church to receive credit for your donations use CODE 20003 when dropping off or you can also our church name, St. David's UCC. We will soon be receiving a "Code" for donations of clothing items by our St. David's members. Drive-up hours are Monday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

NEW HOPE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Hanover Center, 135 Baltimore Street is in great need of various volunteer positions: Pantry Helpers, Parking Helpers and Administrative Helpers are needed. If interested in volunteering, click on the following link for an online application form:

<https://www.volgistics.com/ex/portal.dll/ap?AP=926601804&OR=1>

HYMN NOTES

WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING

Written by Philipp Nicolai and translated by Catherine Winkworth.

Catherine Winkworth (b. Holborn, London, England, 1827; d. Monnetier, Savoy, France, 1878) is well known for her English translations of German hymns; her translations were polished and yet remained close to the original. Educated initially by her mother, she lived with relatives in Dresden, Germany, in 1845, where she acquired her knowledge of German and interest in German hymnody. After residing near Manchester until 1862, she moved to Clifton, near Bristol. A pioneer in promoting women's rights, Winkworth put much of her energy into the encouragement of higher education for women. She translated a large number of German hymn texts from hymnals owned by a friend, Baron Bunsen. Though often altered, these translations continue to be used in many modern hymnals. Her work was published in two series of *Lyra Germanica* (1855, 1858) and in *The Chorale Book for England* (1863), which included the appropriate German tune with each text as provided by Sterndale Bennett and Otto Goldschmidt. Winkworth also translated biographies of German Christians who promoted ministries to the poor and sick and compiled a handbook of biographies of German hymn authors, *Christian Singers of Germany* (1869). (Source: *Bert Polman*)

Philipp Nicolai (b. Mengersinghausen, Waldeck, Germany, 1556; d. Hamburg, Germany, 1608) lived an eventful life—he fled from the Spanish army, sparred with Roman Catholic and Calvinist opponents, and ministered to plague-stricken congregations. Educated at Wittenberg University, he was ordained a Lutheran pastor in 1583 in the city of Herdecke. However, he was soon at odds with the Roman Catholic town council, and when Spanish troops arrived to reestablish Roman dominance, Nicolai fled. In 1588 he became chief pastor at Altwildungen and court preacher to Countess Argaretha of Waldeck. During that time Nicolai battled with Calvinists, who disagreed with him about the theology of the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper. These doctrinal controversies were renewed when he served the church in Unna, Westphalia. During his time as a pastor there, the plague struck twice, and Nicolai wrote both "How Bright Appears the Morning Star" and "Wake, Awake." Nicolai's last

years were spent as Pastor of St. Katherine's Church in Hamburg. (Source: *Bert Polman*)

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

"This Little Light of Mine" made it into the American folk music tradition when it was found and documented by John Lomax in 1939. At Goree State Farm in Huntsville, Texas, Lomax recorded Doris McMurray singing the spiritual. The recording can still be found in the Library of Congress archives.

The song is actually attributed to Harry Dixon Loes. He was gospel songwriter and music director from Michigan who worked at the Moody Bible Institute. Loes wrote the song for children in the 20s. Though Dixon was a white man from the North, the song is often attributed (even in hymnals) as an "African-American spiritual." This is understandable because it sounds similar to other Southern spirituals of the time.

In the 1960s, the simple song became an anthem of the civil rights movement. It was adapted for this purpose by Zilphia Horton (who also taught Pete Seeger "We Shall Overcome") and other activists.

The lyrics to "This Little Light of Mine" are very simple and repetitive. This lends itself nicely to the folk tradition, making it an easy song to remember and sing along with. It's one of the first songs many children learn in Sunday school and is often passed down through generations.

Several popular folk artists have recorded "This Little Light of Mine" through the years. Among them are versions by Pete Seeger and Odetta.

The song can be sung in any manner you choose. It is often heard in a slow, gospel style or in a fun, upbeat version for kids. You might hear it a cappella or with a simple piano accompaniment; an electric rock band or a country twang; in four-part harmony or in a choral setting. It's also not unheard of for this simple tune to be played as an instrumental on everything from a mellow string tune to a raucous song for a group of horns. Bruce Springsteen and the Sessions Band performed "This Little Light of Mine" at a live concert in Dublin in March of 2019.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0qAYq1GVec>)