

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 30, 2020

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Transform us, O God, by the renewal of our minds, that we may not be conformed to this world or seduced by human standards of success. But as true disciples may we discern how good and pleasing it is to you for us to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow in the footsteps of Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said" (Charles W. Everest, 1833)

"Take up your cross," the Savior said,
"if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart,
and humbly follow after me."

Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.

Take up your cross, heed not the shame,
and let your foolish heart be still;
the Lord for you accepted death
upon a cross, on Calv'ry's hill.

Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,
and calmly ev'ry danger brave:
it guides you to abundant life
and leads to vict'ry o'er the grave.

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee

CALL TO CONFESSION

In what do you take pride? To whose standards do we conform? Is our faith all that God intends? Are we functioning effectively as members of one body? Are we using the gifts God has given us for the benefit of all of God's creation? As we examine ourselves before the wonder of God, let us confess all that falls short of God's plan for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we have wavered in our faith in the midst of suffering, and we have not persevered in prayer. We have claimed to be wiser than we are. We make excuses for ourselves rather than listening for Your direction and heeding Your call. Our days are so filled with the busyness of this world that we cannot see Your reign among us. We are so weighed down by our own concerns that we have no energy to serve in Your realm. Send Your cleansing fire among us, forgiving God.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Of what advantage will it be to gain the whole world and forfeit our lives? God has entrusted us with the gift of life and challenged us to spend it as followers of Jesus. In Christ, we find our true identity and experience the forgiveness and wholeness God intends for us. God claims us, grants us gifts, and equips us for our service in the world.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Exodus 3:1-15 Matthew 16:21-28

Exodus 3:1-15

Moses & the Burning Bush

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

³ So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”

⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The Lord said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.

⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.

⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them.

¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

¹³ Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.”

Matthew 16:21-28

Jesus Predicts His Death

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

²⁸ Verily I say unto you, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

SERMON: “Jesus and His Cross”

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

BENEDICTION:

God promises life in all its fullness, not earthly riches. Life is fruitful when lived for others. Praise God for opportunities to serve in Christ’s name.

CLOSING HYMN: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (Elizabeth C. Clephane) (Music: Frederick C. Maker)

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty Rock
within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noon time heat,
(*pause*)
And the burdens of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus,
my eye at times can see,
The very dying form of one
who suffered there for me.
And from my stricken heart, with tears
two wonders I confess.
The wonder of his glorious love
(*pause*)
And my unworthlessness.

I take, O Cross, thy shadow
for my abiding place.
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of His face.
Content to let the world go by,
to know no gain or loss.
My sinful self my only shame,
(*pause*)
My glory all, the Cross.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

GRIEFSHARE: 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.

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.

MAKE-A-WISH TRUCK CONVOY: Make-A-Wish Truck Convoy pit beef and ham fundraiser will be held Sunday September 13 after the church service. No Bake Sale this year. Please contact Todd & Wanda if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please send your prayer requests directly to Pastor Scott either by text (717-880-6082) or e-mail (psscott8283@comcast.net) prior to Sunday, so that he can lift them up during worship.

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!

HYMN HISTORY

Take Up Thy Cross, the Savior Said (Written by Charles William Everest)

Charles William Everest was born on May 27, 1814 in East Windsor, Connecticut. After graduating Trinity College, he took Holy Orders in 1842. He was a minister in Hamden, Connecticut for the next thirty years. He died on January 11, 1877 in Waterbury, Connecticut. The lyrics were first written as a poem by Everest, which was published in 1833 in the Episcopal Watchman magazine. The poem was published under the title "Visions of Death". A year later the poem was published in The Tract, a publication in the United Kingdom. In 1835, the hymn was published in Union Sabbath-School Hymns. The lyrics are based on Mark 8:34, "Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

William Gardiner arranged the tune which originates from a 15th Century German folk melody, Bresiau. Felix Mendelssohn wrote a choral arrangement based on Bresiau in his 1836 oratorio, St. Paul. Simplified versions of this melody are frequently used with the hymn version.

Sir Henry Baker, an English hymn writer, edited Take Up Thy Cross, The Savior Said for inclusion in the Church of England's Hymns Ancient and Modern Hymnal. Making it one of only two American hymns to find itself into the first edition of this hymnal. Baker added an additional verse and made a number of alterations to Everest text. This is the version better known and published in most hymnals today.

The hymn is commonly sung in many churches on Good Friday.

Beneath the Cross of Jesus (Written by Elizabeth Clephane)

Elizabeth Clephane was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1830 and lived most of her life in the village of Melrose. Her father was the county sheriff. She was a woman acquainted with grief, but never let that stop her. Her parents both died while she was young, and she was never very healthy herself. Nevertheless, she was one of those cheerful people who brighten every corner — perhaps because she focused on what she could do for others rather than sitting and feeling sorry for herself. Her friends called her "Sunbeam" — a nickname that may have inspired the lines in this hymn that say:

"I ask no other sunshine than
The sunshine of His face."

Elizabeth loved poetry and wrote several hymns. The other one with which you might be familiar is "The Ninety and Nine," a hymn inspired by Jesus' parable about a shepherd who had a hundred sheep, but left the ninety-nine to search for the one that was lost — a parable about God's love (Matthew 18:12-14).