

ST. DAVIDS (Sherman's) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
December 27, 2020 1st Sunday after Christmas 10:00 AM

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Faithful God, by whose Spirit all people and places become holy, lead us by that Spirit today. We have come to celebrate a birth that offers us rebirth. We have gathered that You might claim us as heirs, with Christ, of eternal life. Unite our hearts and minds in a chorus of praise, that the life of this church might be quickened, renewed, and refocused. May Your faithful people become a crown of beauty in Your hands. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Verse 1

Hark, the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Verse 2

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Verse 3

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee, Weasels

CALL TO CONFESSION

From the boundless mercy of God we have received courage to address the Almighty, who judges but also redeems, who has created us to live fully in this present moment but has also planted eternity in our minds. Before this good and gracious God we pour out our confession. Let us pray:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal One, we have neglected to look for signs of Your presence, so we have not seen Your works. Our worship is filled with empty words, while our hearts are closed to Your transforming Spirit. Even the wonder of new life leaves us unmoved. Break into our routine dullness to forgive and change us.

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rejoice in God! Exalt God's name! You will be clothed with garments of salvation. They will fit you better than anything you have known. The robes of righteousness are not heavy burdens but offer a freedom you have not felt before. You will become a crown of beauty, a new creation, in the hands of a loving God.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 61:10–62:3; Galatians 4:3–7

ISAIAH 61:10–62:3

¹⁰ I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

Zion's New Name

¹ For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.

² The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.

³ You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

GALATIANS 4:3-7

³ So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. ⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

SERMON: "Responsible Children of God"

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

We are heirs of amazing blessings.
We are gifted to become a blessing to others.

CLOSING HYMN: "What Child is This"

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary. (Repeat Chorus)

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS, December 27, 2020

BELL PRACTICE: Mondays, 7:00 PM in the Sunday School wing.

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study will resume in January 2021 on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 AM. Attend in person (masks and social distancing) or join in on your home phone or cell phone via Uber Conference. Please contact Pastor Sager to be added to the Uber Conference Bible Study call list.

GRIEFSHARE: GriefShare will resume in January 2021 on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please send your prayer requests directly to Pastor Scott either by text (717-880-6082) or e-mail (pastor@stdavidsucc.com or pscott8283@comcast.net) 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 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: Sauerkraut, Large Cans of Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Pasta Sauces, Single-serve Fruits, Canned Pears, Scalloped Potatoes Boxes, Corn Bread Mix, Beef and Chicken Broth, Ziploc Sandwich Baggies

Changing Lives Shelter: Large Trash Bag, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Disinfectant Wipes/Spray, Umbrellas or Ponchos

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 of Our Shut-ins.

Clothing Bank: Family-Sized Toiletries, Sheet Sets (all sizes), Bath Towels, Men's White T-shirts (L & XL), Baby Diapers (Size 4-5). (Note: Many good quality clothing items are available. Both clients and anyone in the public are welcome to setup an appointment to select clothing. You will be given *Two Free Bags* of clothing. After that, each item is \$.50. Call 717-633-6353 for an appointment. Open Mon-Thurs 9 am- Noon. Masks required, temperature check, and sanitize hands.)

Ruth's Harvest: Single-serve Entrees, Cereal, Juice Boxes, Snack or Veggies (all single-serve).

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. Just mention St. David's United Church of Christ and our **Code number, #20003** and we will receive \$.06 per pound for clothing donations. Drive-up hours are Monday – Saturday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES: What an amazing November! Our loving and supportive church community was there to support the families we serve so that no one would be hungry on Thanksgiving. Because of the food drives, and funds donated, thousands of families received turkeys and all the trimmings. Volunteers and staff served with big smiles under their face masks to bless our guests. Thank you for helping make these loving moments possible for our neighbors in need! We are blessed by your loving support of our programs!! We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and prayers for a blessed new year.

HYMN NOTES

HARK, THE HERALD ANGELS SING: The history behind the Christmas carol, 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing', is a delightful reminder of how our Lord operates in the lives of each member in His church.

Charles Wesley, brother of John Wesley, was the author of 6,000+ hymns.

This carol was originally published as a poem in 1739 in reference to Luke 2:14, and to be read with solemnity. Charles' goal in writing hymns was 'to teach the poor and illiterate sound doctrine', and it obviously worked. His brother John told people that his brother's hymnal was the best theological book ever written. This hymn is full of gospel theology.

In 1753 the poem was slightly modified, and adapted into a carol by George Whitefield, a colleague of Wesley. The melody sung today is thanks to William Cummings who, in 1855, put the lyrics to portions of Mendelson's "Festival Song." One site provided the following info: "The first line of the hymn originally read, "Hark! how all the welkin rings, Glory to the King of Kings." Welkin is an old English word that means "vault of heaven."

Wesley had insisted the carol be sung slow and solemnly. It wasn't until the words were put to Mendelson's tune that the hymn gained in popularity. Mendelson was a Messianic Jew. The hymn tune used is from the second chorus of a cantata he wrote in 1840. The cantata was originally written to commemorate Johann Gutenberg and the invention of the printing press. Mendelssohn strictly warned that his composition was to only be used in a purely secular manner. However, in 1856, long after both Wesley and Mendelssohn were dead, Dr. William Cummings ignored both of their wishes and joined the lyrics by Wesley with the music by Mendelssohn for the first time.

This carol gives a full explanation of the gospel. Traditionally, we sing 3 verses. There is a 4th verse that most people would not know.

*Come, Desire of nations come, Fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the Woman's conquering Seed, Bruise in us the Serpent's head.
Adam's likeness now efface: Stamp Thine image in its place;
Second Adam, from above, Reinststate us in thy love.
Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.*

WHAT CHILD IS THIS: The lyrics were written by William Chatterton Dix, in 1865. The hymn's accompanying melody has been described as "soulful", "haunting and beautiful" in feeling and nature.

At the time of creating this hymn, Dix served as an insurance company manager and had been struck by a critical illness. While recovering, he experienced a spiritual revival that led him to write several hymns, including lyrics to "What Child is This?" that was subsequently set to the tune of "Greensleeves", a traditional English folk song. Although it was formulated in Great Britain, the hymn is more popular in the United States than in its country of origin today.

The lyrics of the carol are taken from a poem written by Dix called "The Manger Throne". The part of the poem that was utilized as the song's lyrics consist of three stanzas in total. The first verse poses a rhetorical question in the first half, with the response coming in the second half. The second verse contains another question that is answered, while the final verse is a universal appeal to everyone urging them "to accept Christ."