

ADDRESS: NCH, p. 46

QUESTIONS ABOUT PARTICIPATION: NCH, p. 46

WELCOME AND RECEPTION: NCH, p. 46

PASTOR: Let us, the members of St. David's, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

PEOPLE: **We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

PRAYER: Prayer "A", NCH, p. 47

BENEDICTION

PASTOR: Go in the peace of Christ.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

UNISON BENEDICTION

We are baptized in the name of the One who created us and who continues to re-create us. We are baptized in the name of the One who is our Savior and who persists in saving us. We are baptized in the name of the One sent to sustain and preserve us for as long as we have being. God baptizes and empowers us by water and the Holy Spirit. Equipped by God's blessing we dare to serve in Christ's name.

CLOSING HYMN: "Love Divine, All Loves ...," #272 Red

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY January 16, 2022 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WORDS TO PONDER

Remember your baptism.

WELCOME

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: Worship God, whose glory fills the universe, whose majesty is over all the earth.

PEOPLE: **The voice of God shakes the wilderness.**

LEADER: God builds up the ancient ruins and raises up the former devastations.

PEOPLE: **God gives strength to people who respond and blesses them with joy and peace.**

LEADER: The Spirit of God calls and empowers us to bring good tidings and proclaim liberty.

Unison: **God anoints us to bind up the broken hearted and open the prisons of those who are bound.**

OPENING HYMN: "O Spirit of the Living God," #190 Red

CALL TO CONFESSION

Before the strength and glory of the living God our witness appears weak and uninspired. Before God's power and majesty, we can only bow in acknowledgment of our sin and unfaithfulness. Let us seek forgiveness from the Triune God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, who created us whole, we come in our brokenness to remember that we have been baptized. You have reclaimed us by water and the Holy Spirit's

fire, but we have wandered far from the inspiration You provide. We have lived as if there were no standards but our own self-interest. We have sought power by our own manipulations rather than accepted the strength You alone can provide. Refashion us in Your image and empower us once more to follow Jesus as true disciples.

TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

BELL CHOIR: "The Church's One Foundation"
"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

UNISON ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God gives us strength and blesses us with peace. God's favor grants comfort and gladness in our mourning, hope and power in the midst of devastation, and the ability to serve even when our own resources have been depleted. Praise God for opening our hearts to receive the gifts of heaven!

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

LEADER: In the name of the One who is most Holy, we have come together to dedicate these children to the Creator's care and blessing. May the holiness of the Almighty rest in this place, bringing love and peace knowing no bounds.

UNISON: **We dedicate these children to You, Sustaining and Redeeming God. May these children's lives be dedicated to Your guidance. May these children serve You in meaningful ways, as the great servants in times of old who heeded Your call. In the name of the One whose voice calls all people.**

LEADER: These children are children of God, presented in the name of the Holy Spirit, dedicated to the Giver of life.

UNISON: **Thanks be to God for these precious gifts.**

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 43:1-11, Acts 8:14-17,
Luke 3:15-18, 21-22

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

SERMON: "Identified with Christ"

ORDER FOR RECEPTION OF MEMBERS **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

INVITATION: New Century Hymnal (NCH), p. 44

SENTENCES: NCH, "B", p. 44

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES: NCH, p. 45

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: "The Apostles Creed, NCH #881

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. AMEN