

ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 3, 2021

10:00 AM

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We praise You, God, for the comfort You offer and the bounty You bestow. Where You reign, there is peace. In Your word, there is power. We seek Your presence so we might receive a spiritual blessing. Grant wisdom and insight to Your gathered people, that we might know the mystery of Your will. We have welcomed a baby in Bethlehem. Now we seek to learn more fully our inheritance in Christ. Share with us again the gospel of salvation, we pray in Jesus' name. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Blessed Assurance"

VERSE 1

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

CHORUS

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

VERSE 2

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above,
Echos of mercy, whispers of love.

(Chorus)

VERSE 3

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

(Chorus)

CHILDRENS MESSAGE: Miss Dee, The Giraffe

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 the 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

We confess to You, God of our ancestors, that we have heard Your word but ignored its witness. We have nodded agreement with Your truth, but we follow our own ways. Your commandments are frozen on paper, for we do not warm to their possibilities for our lives. As the word became flesh in Christ, we pray it may come alive in us. Melt our rigid perceptions and prejudices. Break down our resistance to change. Link us together in a community of faith, boldly receptive to the gospel. We want to be a community of forgiven and forgiving sinners.

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

To all who receive Christ, who believe in that name and trust in that love, God gives power to become children of God. When we are born of the Spirit, we receive grace upon grace. Light shines into our lives to bring understanding and empowerment. The goodness of our God makes us radiant witnesses to God's truth. Let it be so among us!

HOLY SCRIPTURES: John 1:1-18, Ephesians 1:3-14

John 1:1-18

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

EPHESIANS 3:1-14

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the

times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

SERMON: “Great Are You”

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

Praise God for all we have received. And for all we are privileged to share.

CLOSING HYMN: “To God Be the Glory”

VERSE 1 To God be the glory, great things he hath done:
So loved he the world that he gave us his son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life gate that all may go in.

CHORUS Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
And give him the glory,
Great things he hath done.

VERSE 2 Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
To ev'ry believer the promise of God.
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Chorus)

VERSE 3 Great things he hath taught us, Great things he hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Chorus)

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS, January 3, 2021

Happy New Year!

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

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study will resume at the church on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 9:30 AM & 7:30 PM. You may attend in person (masks and social distancing) or join in on your home phone or cell phone via Uber Conference.

GRIEFSHARE: GriefShare will begin on Sunday, January 3 at 3:00 pm. The group will meet in person at the church, with masks and practicing social distancing. We are going to attempt to show the sessions on Uber-conference 717-388-0676 also. You will need a computer or another device that has video technology to see the video. The sessions will be about 2 hours in length and will run until March 28.

BIBLE STUDY: Bible Study will resume on Tuesday, January 5 (mornings, 9:30 AM; evenings, 7:30 PM). We will begin studying the Minor Prophets beginning with Jonah. All sessions will be in-person at the church with masks and social distancing being practiced. Bible Study will also be available via Uber Conference (717-388-0676) for anyone who does not feel comfortable meeting in person. We look forward to having you join us.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE: January 5, 7:00 PM

MISSION COMMITTEE: The next Mission Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7 in the Grove Building at 6:45 PM.

MEN's GROUP: Meetings will begin Monday, January 25 at 7:00 PM at the church with masks and social distancing. The 9-week curriculum is entitled "The Discipleship Playbook." Meetings can also be accessed via Uber Conference (717-388-0676). You will need a computer or another device that has video technology to see the video.

CONSISTORY MEETING: January 11, 7:00 PM; February 10, 7:00 PM

NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLY: Tuesday, January 26, 9:00 AM

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please send your prayer requests directly to Pastor Scott either by text (717-880-6082) or e-mail (pastor@stdavidsucc.com or psscott8283@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)

PAL DATE: January 23 **No Clothing Bank Date in January**

HACC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

PAL — Packing, Serving,

Changing Lives Shelter — AM and PM Shifts

Meals on Wheels — Runners and Drivers

Front Desk — Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday Reception Help.

Cleaning — Wednesdays

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 Monday to Thursday, 9 am to 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 is 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