

**ST. DAVID'S (SHERMAN'S) UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

July 11, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Ruler of all worlds, whose glory surrounds our unseeing eyes, our muffled hearing and our dulled emotions, come to awake us to the mystery of Your will. Speak to us a word of truth that reveals our deceit and leads us away from falsehood. Touch us with healing grace that allows us to admit our woundedness and accept the comfort You offer. Let Your Spirit move among us so we may recognize Your presence in one another and in our own lives. May our response to You be faithful and our praise genuine. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Praise to the Lord the Almighty"

Author: Joachim Neander (1680); Translator: Catherine Winkworth (1863)

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN

This Hymn is in the Public Domain

- 1)** Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear; now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.
- 2)** Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth;
Shelters thee under his wings, yea so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thou desires e're have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?
- 3)** Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God has chosen us to be holy and blameless in love before our Creator. In our hearts, we know we do not measure up to that high calling. We have built many barriers in our lives against true communion with God and honest community with one another. In our prayer of confession, we seek help to remove those barriers.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of all hope and blessing, hear us as we turn to You with all our hearts. We have not been faithful to Your word of love. We have hurt others and held grudges. We have been jealous and deceitful and ungrateful. We have turned from Your Word and resisted the Holy Spirit. We have wanted our inheritance from You without the responsibilities that go with it. O God, we plead for Your forgiveness and healing that we might respond with joy to the spiritual blessings You offer. Hear our silent prayers of personal confession...

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God's grace is freely given to us in Jesus Christ, through whom we are redeemed and forgiven. Let us see our hope in Christ, living each day for the praise of God's glory, ever seeking the truth that frees us to live fully and triumphantly. Join the dance of gratitude and joy, share with others the love God has poured into our lives.

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Psalm 24, Ephesians 1:1-14

PSALM 24

Of David. A psalm.

¹The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

²for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

³Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?

- ⁴The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.
- ⁵They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.
- ⁶Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.
- ⁷Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
- ⁸Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.
- ⁹Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
- ¹⁰Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.

EPHESIANS 1:1-14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise for Spiritual Blessings in Christ

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

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.

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

LEADER: Remember each day that you are chosen by God. Be open to the spiritual blessings available at all times.

PEOPLE: **We are cleansed and free, purified and made whole. Great is our God and greatly to be praised!**

LEADER: Dwell in the mystery of God's will for you. Dare to reach out in love to those who share your world.

PEOPLE: **We will seek God's counsel daily. We will open our hearts to others' pain.**

LEADER: The Holy Spirit goes with you to empower you. The love of Christ sustains you in all circumstances.

ALL: **We have been blessed and fed in this place. We will share with others the joy we have known.**

CLOSING HYMN: "This is My Father's World"

Author: Maltbie D. Babcock (1901);; Tune: TERRA BEATA

This Hymn is in the Public Domain

- 1)** This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas—
His hand the wonders wrought.
- 2)** This is my Father's world:
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world:
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear Him pass,
He speaks to me everywhere.

- 3)** This is my Father's world:
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
The battle is not done.
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.
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