

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

July 4, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "My Country, Tis of Thee"

Author: Samuel Francis Smith (1832), Tune: AMERICA (Thesaurus Musicus)

This hymn is in the public domain

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| <p>1) My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside
Let freedom ring!</p> | <p>2) My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.</p> |
| <p>3) Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song:
Let mortal tongues awake,
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.</p> | |

THE FIRST PRAYER OFFERED IN CONGRESS

September 7, 1774 by Jacob Duche

O Lord our heavenly Father, high and mighty King of kings, and Lord of lords, who dost from Thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all the kingdoms, empires and governments; look down in mercy, we beseech Thee, on these our American States, who have fled to Thee from the rod of the oppressor and thrown themselves on Thy gracious protection, desiring to be henceforth dependent only on Thee. To Thee have they appealed for the righteousness of their

cause; to Thee do they now look up for that countenance and support, which Thou alone canst give. Take them, therefore, Heavenly Father, under Thy nurturing care; give them wisdom in council and valor in the field; ...

Be Thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable assembly; enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation. That the scene of blood may be speedily closed; that order, harmony, and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety, prevail and flourish amongst the people. Preserve the health of their bodies and vigor of their minds; shower down on them and the millions they here represent, such temporal blessings as Thou seest expedient for them in this world and crown them with everlasting glory in the world to come. All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ, Thy Son and our Savior. AMEN

HYMN: "God of Our Fathers"

Author: Daniel C. Roberts (1876); Tune: NATIONAL HYMN, George William Warren, 1892. This hymn is in the public domain

- 1)** God of the ages, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before thy throne arise.
- 2)** Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
In this free land with thee our lot is cast;
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
Thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.
- 3)** From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase;
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.
- 4)** Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

CALL TO CONFESSION: Abraham Lincoln, 1863

Whereas it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God that made us. It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS: Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, 9-14-2001

“Here in this majestic National Cathedral, we see all around us symbols of the cross. For the Christian, I’m speaking for the Christian now, the cross tells us that God understands our sin and our suffering, for He took upon Himself in the person of Jesus Christ our sin and our suffering. And from the cross, God declares, ‘I love you. I know the heartaches and the sorrows and the pains that you feel. But I love you.’ The story does not end with the cross, for Easter points us beyond the tragedy of the cross to the empty tomb. It tells us that there is hope for eternal life, for Christ has conquered evil and death, and hell. Yes, there is hope.”

SONG: "Give Thanks"

Words and Music: Henry Smith, Integrity Music, Inc., Integrity's Hosanna Music
Streaming Plus License 11427736

Give thanks with a grateful heart,

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,

Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's Jesus Christ, His Son..

And now, let the weak say "I am strong,"

Let the poor say "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."

And now, let the weak say "I am strong,"

Let the poor say "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."

(Repeat from beginning)

HOLY SCRIPTURES: Hosea 11:1-8

HOSEA 11:1-8

God's Love for Israel

¹ "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

² But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images.

³ It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realize it was I who healed them.

⁴ I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.

⁵ "Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent?"

⁶ A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their false prophets and put an end to their plans.

⁷ My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them.

⁸ “How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: “Return to 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: George Washington’s Earnest Prayer,
Written by Washington at Newburg, NY, at the close of the Revolutionary War on June 14, 1783. It was sent to the thirteen governors of the newly freed states.

“I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you, and the states over which you preside, in His holy protection; that He would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for brethren who have served in the field; and finally, that He would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation.”

CLOSING HYMN: "America, the Beautiful"

Author: Katharine Lee Bates (1893), Tune: MATERNA

This hymn is in the public domain

- 1)** O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain;
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.
 - 2)** O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!
 - 3)** O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine.
 - 4)** O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.
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