

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

June 20, 2021

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

We sing praises to You, O God, for You have been gracious to us amid the storms of life. We do battle with many enemies within and among us, but You give us confidence and courage to face them. Out of the whirlwind, You answer when we call. We have gathered to listen for the voice we sometimes cannot hear in the daily clamor of our lives. AMEN

OPENING HYMN: "Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

Words: William Whiting, 1825–1878; Music: John B. Dykes (1823–1876)

(This hymn is in the Public Domain)

- 1)** Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm has bound the restless wave,
Who told the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed bounds to keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those who peril on the sea.
- 2)** O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Your word,
Who walked upon the surging deep,
And in the storm lay calm to sleep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.
- 3)** Creator Spirit, by whose breath
Were fashioned sea and sky and earth,
Who made the stormy chaos cease,
And gave us life and light and peace;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

4) O Trinity of love and power,
Preserve their lives in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, flood and flame,
Protect them by Your Holy name;
And to Your glory let there be glad
Hymns of praise from land and sea.

CALL TO CONFESSION

All of us have faltered before the lions and giants that seem ready to destroy us. Life's storms overwhelm us, and fear takes a deadly toll. Sometimes we are snared in the work of our own hands. We forget the greatest source of help and hope. In these moments together, we lay aside our doubts and our fear of judgment to open our lives to God.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

How great You are, O God! Before Your majesty we are astonished. We tremble when we consider the ways we have failed You, and panic when we take account of the judgment You might pronounce against us. Hear us as, in silence, we confess the sin that separates us from You and from one another.

A TIME OF SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God has listened to us. In spite of all we have done or not done, God accepts us. This is a day of salvation, when brokenness is mended, problems are seen in a new light, and fierce winds are stilled. God does not forget the cry of the afflicted. God's affection for us is limited only by our failure to respond. Accept the gift of God's love, for it is everything we need. All praise to our God!

HOLY SCRIPTURES: MARK 4:35-41

Jesus Calms the Storm

³⁵ That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

⁴¹ They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

SERMON: "Faith Not Fear"

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

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

LEADER: On this day of our salvation, we go forth to praise God.

PEOPLE: **We have heard and seen God's steadfast love in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for us.**

LEADER: Christ goes with us as Guide and Protector, calming the winds and granting us peace.

PEOPLE: **In stillness or in storm we will not panic, for Jesus Christ calms our fears.**

CLOSING HYMN: "Jesus Savior, Pilot Me"

Text: Edward Hopper, 1818–1888; Music: John Edgar Gould, 1822–1875

(This hymn is in the Public Domain)

1) Jesus, Savior, pilot me,
Over life's tempestuous sea:
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rocks and treach'rous shoal;
Chart and compass come from Thee,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me!

2) As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me!

3) When at last I near the shore,
And the fearful breakers roar
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest—
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"Fear not, I will pilot thee!"
